

Heath plane in near miss at airport

Mr Edward Heath was on board a Dan Air HS 748 airliner which was involved yesterday in a near miss with two Nato fighters (Our Transport Correspondent writes). According to one report, the Dutch F-16 jets were flying at 800ft across Yeoman airport, Leeds, just after Mr Heath's plane took off.

Diplomat faces secrets charge

Rhona Jane McIntyre Ritchie, aged 29, the recently appointed first secretary at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, was charged with passing information under the Official Secrets Act when she appeared at Hammersmith Road Magistrates' Court, on Thursday. She was remanded on bail until April 27.

Prosser warders are cleared

Three prison officers accused of murdering Barry Prosser in a cell at Winton Green prison, Birmingham, in August, 1980, were acquitted at Leicester Crown Court after a 15-day trial. All three had pleaded not guilty.

Half-day strikes by teachers

Teachers in England and Wales are to hold a series of half-day strikes in protest against their employers' refusal of arbitration on their pay claim.

Opec cutback

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in Vienna to set a production ceiling of 18 million barrels per day in a bid to hold crude prices to present levels.

Arabs strike

Tension among Arabs in the occupied West Bank mounted and many began a 72-hour protest strike against the latest clampdown by Israeli military authorities who banned these Arab newspapers.

US accused

Nicaragua has accused the United States of plotting to invade its territory and has asked the United Nations Security Council to meet urgently to consider "this grave situation."

Captain blamed

The captain of the coaster that ran aground off Cornwall last December, leading to the death of 16 people, contributed to his own death, the Penleev court jury decided.

Tax advice

Why pay more to the taxman than necessary? Family Money looks at ways of minimising your tax liability as the end of the tax year approaches.

Alan Badel dies

Alan Badel, the actor probably best known for his BBC television role as the Count of Monte Cristo, died suddenly yesterday from a heart attack, aged 58.

Slump in Reagan popularity

President Reagan's popularity after 14 months in office has fallen below President Carter's after the same period, according to a New York Times CBS News poll. Most Americans disagree with the President's unyielding stance on taxes and defence spending.

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Leader page 7
Letters: On Europe, from Sir Henry Plumb, MEP; corporal punishment, from Mr D. Harris and others; satellite TV, from Lady Falkender.
Leading articles: religious education, French franc; London fares.
Obituary, page 8
Marshall V. I. Chuvikov
Features, page 6
Arnold Wesker joins this debate on the Hitler play; a likely king-maker at Hillhead; explorer heroes past and present; lunch with Andy Warhol.

Home News	2, 3	Sat Review	9-13
Overseas	4, 5	Science	2
Arts	6	Services	8
Business	11	Shoemaker	13
Church	15	Snow reports	18
TV & Radio	21	Sport	18, 19
Crossword	22	TV & Radio	21
Law Report	4	Theatres, etc.	10
Parliament	2	Travel	12
Religion	8	Universities	8
Sale Room	2	Weather	22
		Wills	8

Three-year ban on England rebel cricketers

By Our Sports Staff

The English cricketers playing in matches against a South African team, under the captaincy of Graham Gooch of Essex, have been banned from Test cricket for three years.

This was announced at Lord's yesterday by Mr George Mann, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). He added that there had been a unanimous vote among the 21 members of the board, 17 representing the counties, two the minor counties and two the MCC.

A report drawn up by the executive committee of the TCCB set out the reasons for this decision, which Mr Mann saw as a "tragedy in the case of players like Gooch." It is thought that any players appearing regularly for England in those three years might have expected to earn £50,000 in addition to their usual county income.

But there was no alternative. The players in South Africa, who could not have expected to play Test cricket this summer in any case because it had been made clear that both India and Pakistan, the visitors to England, would have cancelled the tour.

The TCCB calculated that the cost in this country of the series against India and Pakistan was cancelled, would be about £2m. Neither India nor Pakistan had openly declared

their unwillingness to come if players in South Africa were included in England Test teams, but this was the TCCB's clear understanding.

The board had considered the legal aspects and believed they were not in the same vulnerable position as they were in the case of the Kerry Packer players five years ago. Things had changed. Gooch and the players had been warned by letter some months ago of the possible consequences of accepting contracts in South Africa.

Mr Peter Cooke, the tour manager, said in Cape Town that the players would not comment publicly on the issue before the tour ended but Gooch said this morning, before the news came through, "What have I done wrong? I am a professional cricketer with a right to a living."

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, said in a statement: "I welcome the action taken by the Test and County Cricket Board. This is a major step forward. It is in the spirit of the Gleneagles Agreement and reflects what Commonwealth leaders expect their sporting bodies. It will have a significant effect in strengthening Commonwealth and international sport. These are always difficult decisions and there can be no question that this is an important stand on principle."

Smell of success in Jenkins camp

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Glasgow

Mr Roy Jenkins, Social Democrat/Alliance candidate in the Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election, believes that house-to-house visits by his party workers in recent weeks have recorded considerable evidence that previously undecided voters are ready to support him.

Although some Alliance canvassers are inexperienced, there is supporting evidence for Mr Jenkins from workers for other parties.

Each candidate yesterday was making guarded claims in public, but confidence among the SDP and Liberal teams was higher than in rival camps.

It was boasted on Thursday night when 600 people attended a meeting in a school hall to hear Dr David Owen, Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers and Mr Jenkins speak. Another 400 people sat or stood outside for more than an hour while the four SDP leaders came out in turn to speak and answer questions.

Mr Edward Heath, for the Conservatives, attracted 800 people and a noisy crowd for Labour, 300 to simultaneous meetings, from an electorate of 40,000. There is a high level of interest in political argument in Glasgow and the questioning, mainly on economic management but frequently on defence and devolution, was invariably shrewd.

With four relatively strong candidates small shifts of support in the final days could be decisive. The figure whose



Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington welcoming Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and his wife Hannelore at RAF Benson, near Oxford, yesterday (Page 5).

Mugging victims 10pc Asian

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

A high proportion of the victims of mugging, robbery and violent theft in London originate in the Indian subcontinent, according to statistics released to The Times by Scotland Yard.

The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that of the 18,763 such offences committed last year, 822 per cent of the victims were European, 10.8 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction, 3.6 per cent of African or West Indian origin and 3.4 per cent others, such as Arab or Chinese.

Although there are no precise figures for 1977, a survey of housing, carried out by the Department of the Environment, estimated that 85.9 per cent of the population of Greater London was European, compared with 5 per cent African or West Indian, and only 4.1 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction.

The tally of victims revealed to The Times on the authority of Mr Gilbert Kelland, Assistant Commissioner, "tends to show the other side of the coin published by Mr Kelland as a controversial London press conference last week."

He said then that the Yard was concerned that there had been a 34 per cent increase in offences of robbery and violent theft in London last year, bringing the total to 18,763 cases. Particular criticism followed the disclosure that 55 per cent of assaults had been identified as "coloured offences."

A specific inquiry by The Times on victims was considered by Scotland Yard for two days while the figures were collated. They were then released, along with a refusal to answer any questions on them.

Unlike last week's figures for ethnic appearance of assault victims, a breakdown of the victims' origins for public consumption was not given by Mr Kelland to be appropriate.

The Yard also refused to release information on the "racial spread" of assaults.

Anderton censured by his own police authority

From John Chartres, Manchester

The latest and most acerbic clash between Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, and his Labour-controlled county police committee may be referred to the Home Secretary.

During a meeting that lasted two and a half hours yesterday Mr Anderton was censured by his police authority for his handling of the Laurence Scott Electro Motors dispute in Openshaw, Manchester, ordered to expand on the statements he made about the constitution of police committees, particularly a reference to some members being "unfit" to hold responsible office, and had a vote of confidence in him defeated by 16-12.

The crux of the meeting was a demand by Councillor Peter Kelly, the committee chairman, that Mr Anderton should clarify the statements he made earlier in the week and indicate that allegations about, or derogatory references to, members of police committees did not refer to members of the Greater Manchester committee.

Failing that, Mr Kelly demanded, he should supply specific evidence supporting his "vague allegations and references" either to the committee itself, to its clerk, (Mr Anthony Harrison, chief executive of Greater Manchester County Council) or to the legal profession.

Mr Anderton refused to supply such information. He told Mr Kelly: "As chief constable I am under no obligation to justify to you or any other person the actions of my remarks. I have no intention of clarifying my remarks."

He did, however, state at one stage that his remarks earlier in the week about police committees did not refer specifically to his own police authority.

Interviewed after the meeting Mr Kelly said that under the Police Act, 1964, his committee could only take steps to have a chief constable removed if it seemed he was not running his force properly, and such steps could only be taken in conjunction with the Home Secretary.

Mr Kelly added: "Some of us do think Mr Anderton would be better employed getting on with the job of running his police force instead of making speeches and statements to the press." He said that legal advice would probably also be sought to see whether Mr Anderton's earlier remarks were defamatory.

Mr Kelly and his deputy chairman, Mrs Gabriel Cox, who had earlier been involved in sharp personal exchanges with Mr Anderton, indicated that the committee would have to discuss the next steps, possibly including a reference to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home

Secretary, if Mr Anderton did not comply with the demand for a clarification of his remarks.

The meeting, attended by 28 of the 30 members of the committee, was called primarily to discuss the deployment of up to 300 police officers at a cost of more than £300,000 to guard the strike-bound Laurence Scott factory when the management was proposing to remove machinery and when, according to Mr Anderton, there was a strong possibility of public disorder.

The first snub for the chief constable came when a resolution proposed by Mr Kelly stating that his deployment represented "overreaction" was carried by 16 votes to 11.

Mr Anderton was involved in direct confrontations with Mrs Cox, who has been one of his most outspoken critics since Labour took control of Greater Manchester Council last May and two months before the Moss Side riots.

During the discussion on the Laurence Scott affair Mr Anderton said that Mrs Cox had "been working very hard in the area to canvass opinion against the police."

Mrs Cox, a schoolteacher in Moss Side, said she took exception to the chief constable's continuing slur. She said she had once visited Openshaw at the invitation of local people to learn what they had to say about the police.

Mrs Cox accused the chief constable of instigating the bad relations between himself and the committee by his frequent speeches and press statements. Mr Anderton was heard to say: "Robbie."

The official announcement of Sir Kenneth Newman's appointment as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in succession to Sir David McNee is expected next week.

The sole bright spot in that services will not be cut as planned this weekend because the unions have refused to countenance the resultant loss of earnings.

But in Underground services have been postponed for a month. Cuts in the services, which will result in marginally longer waiting times, are expected in two stages, in April and July.

London Transport estimates that there will be an 18 per cent loss of traffic this year. By 1984, on figures from LT's outline budget, up to 1,200 million passenger miles, almost a quarter of the total, could be lost. Despite plans to reduce jobs by perhaps 5,000 by 1984, the figures suggest that productivity will still decline to its lowest level, perhaps 73,000 passenger miles per employee, 16 per cent lower than last year and well on half the 170,000 achieved by the transport system in Paris.

Although various measures can be used to assess productivity—and some of those LT shows improvement—on passenger miles for each employee, LT's performance has been declining for more than a decade.

In the early 1970s LT handled about 21,100 million passenger journeys a year, while Paris carried about 1,600 million. A decade later their positions were almost reversed. London's passenger journeys had fallen to 1,750 million, while Paris was carrying 2,050 million.

Simple zonal fare structures The Paris achievement lay essentially in an investment programme of £1,800m, in a period when LT's capital spending the £550m. Subsidies produced cheaper fares, while London charged more for a deteriorating service. More importantly, Paris produced simple zonal fare structures, tickets that could be used on the Metro and buses, far less cash and wall-to-wall, and the widespread use of one-man operation, with a pruning of platform staff on the Metro.

Paris runs its system on 40,000 staff, against LT's 60,000. London needing half as many staff again to carry 15 per cent fewer passengers, a position briefly improved by the GLC's Fare Fair scheme, with its resulting increase in travel.

The comparison is less than fair, because the Metro plays a bigger role in transport in Paris than the Underground in London, and trains carry many more passengers per crew than buses. In addition, some of Paris's gain will shortly be off.

Continued on back page, col 7

Another fare rise likely for London

By Nicholas Timmins and Michael Bailey

Londoners face a possible 25 per cent fare rise in the autumn, on top of tomorrow's record increase of 100 per cent.

That is what would be needed to meet the extra £40m cost if London Transport workers win their fight for a 12 per cent wage rise in place of the 5 per cent budgeted for by LT.

There is no chance of additional help from either the Government or the Greater London Council, and it would therefore have to come from fares to keep LT within the law.

After six months of the cheap fares introduced by the Labour-controlled Greater London Council—and subsequently declared illegal by the Law Lords, London commuters face a gloomy day on Monday with fares rising to about a third higher than the levels of last autumn.

Worst hit will be commuters living in inner suburbs such as Kensington and working in the City, where two-zone Underground fare goes up 130 per cent from 30p to 70p. Zonal bus fares will double, from 10p to 20p; minimum, from 30p to 60p for two zones; and from 40p to 80p for three zones.

The price of bus passes will be doubled, as will the flat fare for children, from 5p to 10p. Underground fares generally will rise by an average of 94 per cent.

The prospect was yesterday described by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, as ugly and deplorable.

Mr Howell said that Londoners should not blame the Government, as a current series of GLC advertisements invited to vote against it was, in the direct result of the "fiasco" of GLC policies. He had asked the GLC to prepare positive plans to improve LT and if they failed the Government would have to impose other solutions.

London Transport estimate that as a direct result of this weekend's fare rises, bus travel will decline by 190,000,000 journeys a year (5 per cent) and Underground by 55,000,000 (10 per cent).

Bus service cuts in two stages About 20 per cent of these lost journeys will be made by car or motorcycle, 40 per cent on foot or bicycle, 10 per cent by British Rail and 30 per cent by British Rail and 20 per cent will no longer take place. An increase of 300,000 vehicle-miles a day by bus and taxi (3 per cent) is forecast.

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Continued on back page, col 7

Inflation standstill last month

By David Blake Economics Editor

Prices stood still in February, the first month in 12 years that the Retail Price Index, has shown no increase in the cost of living.

The index, the most generally accepted measure of inflation, stood at 310.7, showing that prices had risen by 11 per cent over the previous year.

In January, the annual rate of increase had been 12 per cent and the good figures announced yesterday have raised hopes that inflation could be down to single figures by the spring.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, said the figures showed the country is now seeing the benefit of more reasonable pay increase and a fast productivity growth.

The highest contribution to the drop in inflation in February was the falling petrol price, and the withdrawal of supplementary rate demands in London and the West Midlands.

Some benefit will be lost from dearer fares on London Transport this weekend and petrol prices which went up because of the Budget. However, because the Chancellor put up taxes on petrol, drink and tobacco by less than 1981, the annual inflation rate may drop again in March.

The Treasury's forecast that inflation would be running at 9 per cent in the final quarter of this year looks slightly pessimistic. Productivity went up very sharply in industry last year, so that wage costs in Britain only rose 21 per cent between December, 1980 and December, 1981. Table, page 15

Churches want controls on test-tube births

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The Church of England and Britain's nonconformist churches have given their approval to fertilisation outside the womb, providing the laws and spent come from the couple concerned, but want greater control over artificial insemination by donor (AID).

They have added their voice to the demands for a public inquiry into the ethical implications of test-tube babies and the increased use of AID.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, Mr Ian Kennedy, former Reith Lecturer and Reader in Law at King's College London, and other senior academics called last month for an expanded debate on the issues.

The British Medical Association has set up its own working party but the churches want a wider inquiry.

In a report to be published tomorrow the Free Church Federal Council and the British Council of Churches deliver their most comprehensive statement on the issues surrounding human reproduction for 20 years.

The churches condemn "surrogate motherhood," the process by which a woman conceives and bears a child for another childless couple, and say it should be legally banned. They predict that it could lead to baby sales, which should also be illegal, they say.

The report, produced by a 15-man working party, chaired by the Very Rev Peter Bael, Dean of Durham, says a decision to remain childless can be a valid choice within a Christian marriage. Equally it is acceptable for infertile couples who want children to seek medical help. But not all

means available to them are morally justifiable.

The limits are transgressed in surrogate motherhood because the prenatal relationship between mother and baby are disrupted and the link between biological and social parent-hood deliberately broken. "It is to reduce procreation to nothing more than a biological process."

Similar objections rule out the practice of "womb leasing," where a woman with a healthy womb nurtures a fertilized egg for another woman.

In vitro fertilization, where the ovum and sperm belong to the couple concerned, is acceptable and can be seen simply as an extension of artificial insemination by husband, but serious ethical problems arise if the procedure is extended to include the use of donor ova or sperm, which the working party sees as driving a wedge between biological and social parenthood. Some members felt a Christian couple should agree to have children by each other or not at all.

The report suggests six social and legal measures which should be taken in safeguard the offspring of AID. These include legislation to deal with the existing situation that an AID child is technically illegitimate.

It recommends that AID children should be brought up to know the truth about their parentage, just as adopted children are now often told they are adopted, and should have access, if they seek it, to their genetic records. The name of the donor should be secret.

Choices in Childlessness (Free Church Federal Council, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EH, price 80p).

Capital
penalty

Rape
decision
deferred

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Thatcher policy chief leaving post

Mr John Hoskyns, the head of the Prime Minister's policy unit at Downing Street, at the end of next month (Anthony Bevins writes).

Mr John Hoskyns, aged 54, has worked with Mrs Margaret Thatcher for five years. He hopes to return to business. He served in the Rifle Brigade from 1945 to 1957, when joined IBM United Kingdom Ltd. He later founded a company.

The policy unit, which deals with issues of immediate interest and concern to the Prime Minister, is now left with one civil servant. No replacement has yet been chosen for Mr Hoskyns, who receives the salary of an Under-Secretary, £21,935 plus £1,087 London weighting.

It was stated last night that the departure of Mr Hoskyns and of Mr Robin Ibbes, head of the Central Policy Review Staff, at the end of this month, was coincidental.

Flying lessons for jobless

Twenty unemployed school leavers in the North-east are to be taught to build and fly an aircraft at Sunderland under a scheme financed by a £54,000 grant under the Youth Opportunities Programme (Ronald Faux writes).

Mr George Taylor, manager of the adult community enterprise programme in the area and a spare-time builder of light aircraft, proposed the idea because he thought the skills required would give the young people a useful grounding in mechanical and electrical engineering, woodwork and welding.

The programme will last a year. The two-seat aircraft will be built and flown under the supervision of two former RAF officers.

Judge rejects husband's plea

An application for a writ of habeas corpus was dismissed in the High Court in Belfast yesterday after a judge was told that the mother-in-law of Mr Christopher Black, an alleged IRA informer, was with him in a "place of safety" (Richard Ford writes from Belfast).

Mrs Margaret Russell, aged 66, was last seen leaving her home in North Belfast with her policeman last November but had chosen to be with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr Justice Kelly was told. The application was made by the woman's husband.

Gaelic greeting by the Pope

The Pope is learning a few words in Gaelic in preparation for his visit to Scotland, Cardinal Gordon Gray, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, said on returning from the Vatican yesterday.

The head of the Church of Scotland could find himself being greeted in the native tongue when he meets the Pope at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh.

Cable broadcast investigation

The Prime Minister yesterday confirmed that Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, would be making early arrangements for an examination of the implications of cable television networks.

The first of these, that Mr Thatcher said in a Commons written reply to the report of the Cabinet's Information Technology Advisory Panel on cable and satellite broadcasting would be published on Monday. The other implications would require "detailed and urgent examination".

Children die in house blaze

Three children died in a fire which destroyed their council home in Warrington, Cheshire, today. Their mother, Mrs Edna Lythgoe, aged 39, was being treated for serious burns and head injuries last night.

The blaze started in the gas central heating system. Three weeks ago Mrs Lythgoe put out a fire in the central heating system. The dead children were Lynda, aged 15, Samantha, aged 14, and Graham, aged two.

Rye MP to retire

Mr Godman Irvine, Conservative MP for Rye since 1955, is not to seek re-election, Mr Irvine, aged 72, a barrister, has been a Deputy Speaker since 1979.

'The Little Foxes'

The charity preview performance of *The Little Foxes*, mentioned on March 6, was in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child as well as MIND.

Teachers press claim with half-day strikes

By Frances Gibb

Teachers yesterday agreed to mount a series of four half-day nationwide strikes, to start on March 23, after a decision by their employers to refer a 12 per cent pay claim to arbitration.

The action, which would affect a quarter of all schools in England and Wales each day, was agreed by the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers, which together represent 370,000 staff.

The management panel of the Burnham Committee, which negotiates teachers' pay in England and Wales, has offered an increase of 3.4 per cent. Its decision not to refer the claim to arbitration was made on Thursday after a meeting in which the management side was split between those wanting immediate arbitration and those urging further negotiations.

Further talks are to take place on Thursday, but if they break down the strike action will go ahead. Teachers will be called out in three regions at a time from Monday to Thursday.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said yesterday: "The local authorities are now bringing children into this dispute by refusing the peaceful and sensible way out offered by arbitration."

The employers' decision also provoked an angry response from the traditionally moderate Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association.

which announced yesterday that it would reimpose industrial sanctions in all local authorities.

The sanctions, involving a ban on the supervision of lunchtime and out-of-school activities, and a refusal to cover for absent colleagues, has been suspended in those authorities which supported arbitration. They include all the London and metropolitan authorities and 17 of the 47 non-metropolitan counties.

Mr Peter Smith, assistant secretary of the 90,000-member AMMA, union, said the management's persistent refusal to refer the claim was "nothing less than appalling".

Their answer to the teachers' proposal to be bound by arbitration was an approach to industrial relations which "recognized the code of the bone-headed hooligan", he said. "Their behaviour is unacceptable to anyone who respects the law of the jungle."

Mr Nigel de Grunby, assistant general secretary of the NAS/UTW, said the action made closure of schools a possibility. "It is regrettable, but stepping up industrial action will undoubtedly bring chaos to many more schools."

A spokesman for the management panel of the Burnham committee said: "The panel was aware of the possibility that teachers would step up their action. We still believe it is possible to reach a negotiated settlement; there is a meeting next week and we hope it will be possible to reach agreement then."

Whitelaw to get plea on 'Romans'

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government is likely to be asked next week to make parliamentary time available to amend the Theatres Act, 1968, which governs obscene displays in theatres and was thought to have abolished censorship of the stage.

An approach to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is being organized by the Theatre Defence Fund after a prosecution for gross indecency was brought by Mrs. Mary Whitehouse against Mr Michael Bogdanov, director of *The Romans* in Britain, staged at the National Theatre.

The prosecution was abandoned on Thursday amid some confusion, leaving the legal position unclear.

The withdrawal of the case led to some outright criticism by Mr Justice Staughton, the judge in the Central Criminal Court, and implied strictures from Mr Kenneth Richardson, senior Treasury counsel representing the Attorney General.

What seems clear is that the decision not to proceed was initially taken by Mr and Mrs Bogdanov, because of the damage a conviction might do to Mr Bogdanov, who had apparently staged a homosexual rape scene in the play in good faith. Mr Kennedy told Mrs Whitehouse who, he said, "accepted the decision" with his decision.

This happened on Wednesday, after the judge's ruling that there was a case to answer. But Mr Kennedy also told Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, counsel for the defence, who in turn informed Mr Bogdanov. The two counsel.

The judge, however, whose opinion was apparently that Mr Bogdanov should not have been told before the Attorney General had considered Mr Kennedy's views, took a stronger view of the issue.

He told the court he had not been consulted before Mr Bogdanov was informed, adding: "Although I do not doubt that it was done with a good motive, I am bound to say that any notion that the trial could be brought to a conclusion was misconceived and improper."

But other legal opinion was that Mr Kennedy, an experienced counsel whose earlier prosecutions include the Operation Julie drugs case and the IRA bombings in Aldershot, acted with "total propriety" and there was speculation that the judge's comments might be referred to the Bar Council.

Mrs Whitehouse said last night that she could not afford the estimated £20,000 legal costs for the prosecution, which she had brought as an individual and not as president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association. But she was optimistic about meeting the bill because of the "great number of people" who supported her action.

The move by the theatre defence fund was last night welcomed by Sir Roy Shaw, secretary-general of the Arts Council, who said the council would be sympathetic towards a joint approach to the Home Office.

In the council's first public comment on the case, Sir Roy said it would also be pressing Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, for change in the Theatres Act.

Analysis of race cases attacked

By Richard Evans

Mr William Whitelaw is bitterly criticized today by Britain's first Scarman-style police and community liaison group for allowing last week's racial breakdown of London street crime statistics to be published.

He will be told in the bluntest terms by the new group, based in Lambeth, south London, that the analysis will harm relations between police and the black community and will aid extremists.

"The task that you have set us of recreating confidence between the community and the police is difficult enough in all conscience. It is a task that must be more seriously and more helpfully difficult by the singling out of these 'statistics', and cooperation has taken a step backwards," Father Charles Walker, the group chairman, says in a letter to the Home Secretary.

The liaison group, established on the lines recommended in Lord Scarman's report into last year's Brixton riots, was set up only two weeks ago, with the active encouragement of Mr Whitelaw.

In his letter Father Walker, aged 58, a Roman Catholic priest, told the Home Secretary: "Anxiety and indignation that figures so sensitive, drawing special attention to Lambeth and its black community, should have been isolated and issued in so insensitive and suggestive a manner."

He says the apparent identification of a minority community with violent crime "arouses intense emotions which extremists of all kinds rejoice to exploit".

Scotland Yard figures released last week disclosed that Lambeth had a total of 2,493 cases involving violent street crime in 1981, of which 1,988 were said to have been committed by coloured people.

Other items that ran above expectations included a set of six George III painted satinwood chairs at £19,000 (estimate £8,000-£12,000), and a pair of handsome George III mahogany library armchairs, fresh on the market, for which Phillips and Harris paid £17,600 (estimate £4,000-£6,000).

PROCEDURE REVIEW IN COMA CASE

From Our Correspondent, Ludlow

The Hereford and Worcester Area Health Authority is to seek a review of the procedures for investigating serious accidents in hospitals, as a result of a report of the case of an SAS soldier who was left in a coma by an operation mishap.

The authority, which met in private to discuss the report by three leading doctors on an incident involving Mr David Woodhouse, aged 28, at Hereford County Hospital, said later that it was unsatisfactory that the inquiry team had to rely on written evidence alone.

Mr Woodhouse, the father of four young daughters, has been in a coma since a routine appendix operation last May.

The AHA yesterday accepted the findings of the three-man inquiry team which principally blamed human error by an anaesthetist.



Spring host: Daffodils herald the coming season in Hyde Park, London.

Prosser murder trial ends

Prison officers acquitted

From Arthur Osman, Leicester

The three prison hospital officers acquitted of murder yesterday left Leicester Crown Court to a barrage of abuse, some from former prisoners who had sat in court throughout their 15-day trial. Others, who wept uncontrollably, included relatives of the dead man, Mr Barry Prosser, of Sedgley, West Midlands.

The three men hurried with police in attendance to the garage below the court building to cries of "murderers" and "you have got to come". They were greeted, by fellow prison officers in civilian clothes who applauded them as they walked down the ramp. The three drove away in a convoy of four cars with a police escort to renewed abuse from the crowd.

In their wake they left the unanswered question of how Mr Prosser, aged 32, came by his injuries, which led to his death in a hospital wing cell at Winston Green prison, Birmingham, where he was on remand, in August, 1980.

It is unlikely the question will ever be resolved, but Mr Martin Kent-Davies, the family's solicitor, said a claim would be lodged with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. An action against the Home Office was also contemplated.

It was learned that the men's appearance in the dock in a case that made history with a charge of murder against one of them being levelled three times, was ordered only after intervention by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, and Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions.

After the verdict the Home Office said: "The three men are to remain on special paid leave. We will want to consider the evidence of the case and the judge's comments, before taking any decision on their futures."

The three men are: Mr Melvin Jackson, aged 33, of Stourport on Severn, Hereford and Worcester, a prison officer since 1969; Mr Eric Smith, aged 32, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, in the prison service since 1975; and Mr Howard Price, aged 25, of Chasetown, West Midlands, a prison officer for five years.

Thier male and female relatives collapsed in tears when the jury of four women and eight men returned after nine hours 15 minutes, which included an overnight stay in a hotel, to return not guilty.

that the matter was closed. But Mr Whitelaw's pressure brought an application by the director on October 26 for a voluntary bill of indictment and the trial was the outcome.

As the Crown knew from the outset, the crucial part of its case was the credibility of Mr Patrick Galvin, aged 23, a Birmingham man serving six years for manslaughter after killing a youth outside a public house. He was described as "educationally subnormal and illiterate."

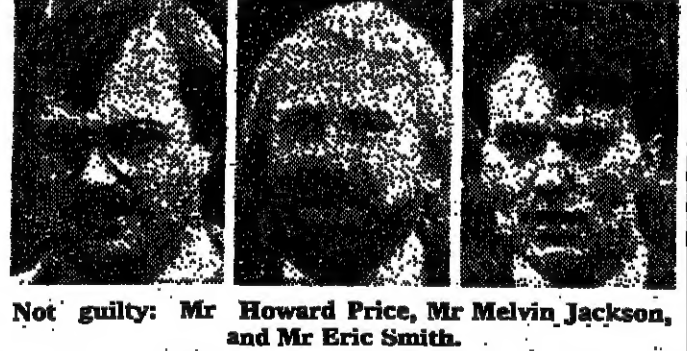
He had come forward at the inquest on Mr Prosser last April to allege he had seen the three officers go to the cell and later reappear "chattered up" (flushed) as if they had exerted themselves.

Mr Justice Skinner, in a key passage of his summing up, told the jury it would be dangerous to act on his evidence, except where it was confirmed by other reliable evidence. There was none, despite intensive work by police who took more than 500 statements, questioned 300 inmates of the prison and visited more than a dozen penal establishments, including Rampton and Broadmoor.

None of the three accused was willing to talk to journalists after they left the court. But Mr George Jones, Birmingham solicitor who prepared the defence of Mr Smith and Mr Price, said: "All they want to do now is thank the many friends who supported them and their wives and to get back to work and a normal life as soon as possible."

One of the anomalies of the case was that Mr Prosser, who was 6ft 3in and weighed 14½ stone, and suffered from hypomania, which made him excitable, was in prison for causing criminal damage amounting to £150.

Mr Howard Price, Mr Melvin Jackson, and Mr Eric Smith.



Not guilty: Mr Howard Price, Mr Melvin Jackson, and Mr Eric Smith.

UK poised for £900m EEC aid

From Ronald Kershaw, Brussels

The European Commission is expected to approve early next week recommendations that will give Britain just over £900m supplementary payments for regional development programmes.

Whether that will lower the temperature at next Tuesday's meeting of foreign ministers, when further attempts will be made to lower Britain's budget contribution, remains to be seen.

Britain sees the establishment of supplementary measures in its favour merely as a refund for its high contribution to the EEC budget.

Introduced in May, 1980, the special measures were intended to provide a breathing space of two years to find a solution to the "British problem".

The supplementary payments recommendations come from the supplementary measures committee, which met last Tuesday. If the Commission approves the expenditure, which the committee emphasizes is only a temporary measure, then 90 per cent of the £900m will be paid before the end of this month, that is before the close of the financial year. The 10 per cent withheld is a safety margin to cover over-estimation and will be paid later.

The money will be used for capital expenditure programmes in Scotland, Wales, the north of England, South Wales, Northern Ireland, and the London roads.

A difference of view has emerged between the Government and the European Commission over the independent role of local councils on economic regeneration (David Walker writes).

Mr Ivor Richard, the EEC commissioner social policy, said in Manchester yesterday that he wanted to instigate a campaign by national governments, the EEC and local authorities to create jobs and dampen the "explosive" mix of racial tensions in districts of racial tension like Moss Side.

He described as "unfortunate" any moves by the Government to deter local initiative, a reference to the recent government Green Paper, which proposed a reduction in the power of local authorities to grant money and loans to industry.

"The UK government is getting restive about the numbers of local authorities coming direct to Brussels. I am sorry if this is the case. They are the best spokesmen for the areas, they understand them best," he said.

Science report

Stimulating regrowth of damaged nerves

By the Staff of "Nature"

Damaged nerves of the brain and the spinal cord have the will but not the way to regrow, according to Dr Martin Benfey and Dr Albert J. Aguayo, both of Montreal General Hospital and McGill University. They believe that the reason why damage to the nerves of the finger is of little consequence, whereas damage to those of the spinal cord leads to paraplegia, is that the spinal cord does not produce the chemicals that would signal its nerves to regrow.

The regrowth of damaged peripheral nerves is a response to chemical signals from the surrounding tissue. In the case of the spinal cord, the regrowing nerve extends. By contrast, damage to the central nervous system results in an impenetrable scar. Experiments carried out in 1911 first suggested that nerves of the spinal cord or brain would respond to the growth signals of peripheral glial cells. It is proof of that suggestion that Dr Benfey and Dr Aguayo have now provided. In the original experiments, segments of peripheral nervous tissue were grafted into rabbit brain and shown to induce vigorous sprouting of nerves of the brain. Experiments carried out in 1911 first suggested that nerves of the spinal cord or brain would respond to the growth signals of peripheral glial cells. It is proof of that suggestion that Dr Benfey and Dr Aguayo have now provided. 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Captain was at fault, Penlee jury decides

From Craig Seton, Penzance

Henry Moreton, captain of the Union Star, the coaster that ran aground in a storm off the Cornish coast, leading to the deaths of 16 people, contributed to his own death, the Penlee lifeboat inquiry jury decided yesterday.

The jury of eight men, sitting at Penzance, returned a verdict of manslaughter on Captain Moreton, aged 33, and verdicts of accidental death on 15 others. Mr Moreton's wife Dawn, his two teenage daughters, his four crewmen and the eight Penlee lifeboatmen who lost their lives going to the help of the stricken coaster, on the night of December 19 last near Land's End.

The jury said death was due to either multiple injuries or drowning in the case of those lost in the lifeboat, or drowning for those lost in the coaster. One crewman from the Union Star had been found still wearing a lifebelt.

The verdicts came after the inquest had heard that Captain Moreton, taking the Union Star on a maiden voyage to Ireland, had redressed a tow for more than an hour when his engines had broken down, saying he was in no great difficulty.

He had not lowered the mast of the coaster, hampering rescue attempts by hovering Royal Navy rescue helicopter. According to evidence, the crew of the Union Star had shown "no sense of urgency" as the crew of the lifeboat made repeated runs alongside in mountainous seas close to the cliffs and beckoned them to leave the wheelhouse. Only later did four jump in to the lifeboat.

Evidence from the captain of a salvage tug also showed that at no time during the emergency did Captain Moreton put out a Mayday call over a period of more than two hours, in which time the ship drifted closer to

the rocks and 60 ft high breakers.

New evidence heard at the inquest yesterday suggested that the Penlee lifeboat, Solomon Browne, having picked up four people from the Union Star shortly before it overturned, was trying to get home, possibly damaged, and was seen making slow progress towards Tater Du, near Lands End. Lifeboat paint marks were later found on those rocks.

Mr Derrick Pepper, the West Cornwall coroner, told the jury that a manslaughter verdict was appropriate when a person brought consequences on himself unnecessarily.

Bearing in mind that the coaster had been in communication with the coastguard right through the emergency, the jury might consider, he said, that the negligence there may have been, and he was not saying there was any, fell far short of gross negligence or a wicked and reckless disregard for the safety of others, which would constitute unlawful killing.

The inquest heard that only eight of the 16 bodies had been recovered, those of four lifeboatmen, including the coxswain Mr Trevelyan Richards, and those of two from the coaster. The two of the four rescued by the Solomon Browne before it was wrecked.

Yesterday Mr Michael Buttery, a fisherman from Mousehole, the home of the Penlee crew, told the inquest that an auxiliary coastguard he had been with a cliff rescue party which made its way towards the spot where the 1,400-ton coaster was going aground.

He said he had heard on the radio-telephone the lifeboat report that it had taken four survivors and was heading for home. On Thurs-



Prisoners help the blind

Life-sentence prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs, west London, made the braille books and maps being studied by these pupils at John Aird School, Hammersmith. Mr Barry Johnson, a teacher, is guiding Laura Alexander

of the scheme. Two hundred books, including the Bible and the Koran, have been transcribed. The prisoners in the braille unit take a £1 cut in pay because jobs there are classed as non-industrial.

Civil Service sex inequality 'rife'

By Frances Gibb

Sexual inequality in the Civil Service is rife, with most women concentrated in low-grade and low-paid jobs, the Society of Civil and Public Servants says.

The society, which represents 100,000 middle-grade civil and public servants, says in a booklet published today that Government figures show that women make up 99 per cent of the secretarial group and almost 80 per cent of the lowest clerical grade.

But their numbers drop dramatically as the status of the grade increases, and there are no women at the level of permanent secretary, it says. Only four (2.6 per cent) hold posts at deputy secretary level; 27 (4.7 per

cent) at under-secretary level and 62 (5.6 per cent) at assistant secretary level.

By contrast, there are 41 male permanent secretaries; 147 male deputy secretaries; 578 male under-secretaries; and 1,042 male assistant secretaries, the booklet says.

In the secretarial grades, there are 20,910 women typists, compared with 114 men, and 4,527 women personal secretaries, compared with 39 men.

The society calls for a "fundamental reassessment of Civil Service policies and procedures" to eliminate the sex segregation, which it says results from a history of discriminatory practices.

The equal pay and sex discrimination Acts have helped to remove the most overt forms of discrimination and opened up opportunities to women, it says. But they have not had much success in achieving equal pay and opportunities in the wider sense.

"Many women are still underpaid in relation to the men they work with and in relation to their level of skill and effort. Furthermore, most women are still concentrated in low-grade, low-paid women's jobs with few career prospects."

Equality — the Next Step: The Changing Role of Women in the Civil Service (Society of Civil and Public Servants, 124/130 Southwark Street, London, SE1).

'The bravest men I have ever seen'

From a Staff Reporter

Relatives of the dead Penlee lifeboatmen had tears in their eyes at yesterday's inquest as they listened to a letter read out from Lieutenant Commander Russell Smith of the US Navy, who piloted the Sea King helicopter Rescue 80 from the Royal Navy station at Culdrose, which repeatedly tried to lift off the crew and passengers of the Union Star.

"Throughout the entire rescue, the Penlee crew never appeared to hesitate," he said.

After each time they were blown off by the wind, the Union Star crew immediately commenced another run. Their spirit and dedication was amazing considering the hostile weather and the constant possibility they were being blown off.

The inquest heard that I have ever seen, who were totally dedicated to upholding the highest standards of the RNLI. I most humbly submit this eye-witness account of their courage, dedication and bravery to the RNLI with the deepest sympathy for the families of these great men.

The jury asked that their appreciation should be expressed to the coastguard crew, the dedicated and brave crew of the Union Star, and to a police sergeant who waded into the sea to recover a body.

Rape claim decision deferred

From a Staff Reporter

The hearing was completed in the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday of the action by "Mrs X", a Glasgow woman, who seeks to bring a private prosecution against three teenagers who allegedly raped and assaulted her.

Similar charges were dropped by the public prosecutor, the Lord Advocate, in September last after a medical report said the alleged victim was unfit to testify at that time.

Lord Emslie, the Lord Justice General, sitting with Lord Cameron and Lord Auld, said yesterday that they would take time to consider their decision on "this most unusual application". A written judgment is expected within the next fortnight.

On the fourth day of the hearing Mr Charles Kemp Davidson, QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, continued his answers on behalf of "Mrs X" to the argument of the public prosecutor that the case had acquired a "degree of notoriety", and that some of the media coverage had been "very strong". But he contended that if a trial went ahead it would still be possible for a jury, if carefully directed by the trial judge, to hear the case.

Lord Emslie said that the difficulty would be to get through to the jury that they would require a sense of duty "beyond what is required of a Scottish jury". The jurors would have to clear their minds of preconceptions.

Mr Kemp Davidson said that if a trial went ahead next May, as seemed possible, then it would take place more than three months after the publication in a Scottish newspaper of an alleged confession by one of the youths. By that time the intense media coverage of January would have become a blur in the minds of potential jurors.

Mr Kemp Davidson argued that the media had preserved the anonymity of those concerned in the case. The concern of journalists had not been that the three alleged assailants were going free but that they were not going to be put on trial.

In the public interest there should be a trial despite the allegation of prejudice by publicity.

It was a fundamental principle of a civilized society, Mr Kemp Davidson said, that if crimes had been committed they should be tried by the law of the land, not by press, television and radio.

Call for clamps to ease parking chaos

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

The Greater London Council and London Transport yesterday supported the police demand to be allowed to use "wheel clamps" to immobilise illegally parked vehicles. The council argued that illegal parking was so widespread in central London that new and more effective means of enforcement were needed.

Mr Paul Moore, vice-chairman of the council's transport committee, quoted GLC estimates that five vehicles out of six were parked illegally in the streets, and that one in 50 received a parking ticket and one in 100 paid a fine.

The lack of enforcement was partly due to the shortage of traffic wardens. There were 1,300 wardens in London, compared with the 4,000 needed to do the job properly, he said.

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in November that he wanted the views of the public and interested bodies before deciding whether to legalize clamps. If he does, they will probably be introduced as an experiment in

the most congested areas of central London.

A wheel clamp can be fitted to a car in less than two minutes. A driver finding one on his car would have to pay a fee, probably about £25, at the local police station to have the vehicle released.

Supporters of clamps argue that the inconvenience caused is an effective deterrent to illegal parking. The system is widely used in the United States and France.

Dr David Quarumby, managing director of London Transport buses, who favours clamps, said some buses were having to be permanently diverted because of illegal parking and were losing up to 15 per cent scheduled mileage.

For the Automobile Association, however, Mr Ronald Sharrool said clamps would only prolong the original offence and do little to improve the situation. He wanted enforcement to be made more efficient. If clamps were allowed, he said they should be applied only to persistent offenders, where, for instance, police records showed three unpaid parking tickets for a vehicle.

Nurse 'died from blow to head'

Mr Ronald Smith said yesterday he knew what caused the death of his daughter, a nurse, in Saudi Arabia. She was said to have fallen to her death at a party given by a British surgeon.

He made his claim after being sent a missing page of an autopsy report made in Saudi Arabia. It was forwarded by the Foreign Office to Mr Smith, aged 56, a former police officer, nearly three years after it was written.

Mr Smith was sent the report a year ago. He has consistently claimed it was not complete. The Foreign Office said yesterday it had not noticed at first that the report was incomplete, as the pages were numbered in Arabic and the text read plausibly from page one to page three.

Mr Smith said the missing page "clearly shows Helen died as a result of a brain haemorrhage caused by a blow to the left side of her head. There is no other word in it suggesting an accident."

But Professor Keith Simpson, the senior Home Office pathologist, said: "My view is that this addition does not alter much and should be looked at critically."

A hearing in the High Court on Thursday is to decide whether a Leeds coroner was justified in refusing to hold an inquest into the death of Miss Smith, aged 23, as it happened abroad.

SOLICITOR STOLE £143,000

Michael Campell, a City solicitor who stole £143,000, was jailed for three years and three months at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Campell, aged 49, of Norland Square, Holland Park, north London, admitted charges of theft and deception while acting as the legal adviser and director of a finance company. The thefts included £18,000 belonging to his former wife and their three children, whose shares he sold.

Mr Henry Pownall QC, defending, said Campell had been struck off by the Law Society and made bankrupt with debts of £260,000.

Gordon Ellis, a former Bristol solicitor, was jailed for two years yesterday after he admitted stealing more than £26,000 from clients.

Ellis, aged 33, of Hocker Hill Road, Chesham, used the money to finance housing transactions which mainly benefited his former wife.



Don't miss the first stage of our gastronomic 'Tour de France'

Last week's new-look Sunday Times Magazine left the others standing. Tomorrow, it continues to set the pace... with a fascinating, superbly-illustrated series of articles on India. From ancient relics to their latest screen goddesses.

And with the first part of "The Taste of France," a major new cookery series, in LOOK — our new-style magazine within a magazine.

Part One deals with the traditional fare of Normandy and Brittany. It should have you reaching for your garlic-crusher within seconds.

Incidentally, we do expect a pretty heavy demand tomorrow morning. So if you haven't already ordered a copy, we suggest you get on your bike.

If you'll pardon the expression.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The new-look Sunday Times Magazine...with the new 'Look' magazine inside.

Tension mounts on West Bank as Arabs strike

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah, March 19

As large sections of the West Bank's 700,000 Palestinians began a 72-hour protest strike today the Israeli military authorities reinforced their latest clampdown by banning the distribution of all three local Arabic newspapers in the occupied region.

The main visible effects of the strike were initially restricted to the two main Christian towns of Ramallah and Bethlehem. In the rest of the West Bank Friday is traditionally treated as a Muslim holiday when most business premises remain closed.

The ban came as tension among the Arabs was rising after yesterday's unprecedented Israeli decision to disband the entire elected Arab council of El-Bireh and replace it by a committee of Israeli military officers who will administer all local affairs.

Israeli troop reinforcements have been drafted into the area in anticipation of violent protests against the move, which is regarded as the beginning of a drive to displace a number of the most radical Palestinian municipalities. Both Israeli and Arab critics have described the take over of El-Bireh town hall as a further step towards Israeli annexation of the area.

The Government calls "Judea and Samaria". The confiscation of the copies of *Al Fajr*, *Al Sha'ab* and *El Kuds* (as well as the weekly, English language edition of *Al Fajr*) took place as the papers were being driven from their printing works in east Jerusalem for sale in the West Bank. The papers were still available in the Arab sector of Jerusalem.

Israeli military sources claimed that the editions had been seized because they breached strict military censorship regulations. This charge was flatly denied by Arab journalists involved in their production. The Israelis also said that they contained "inflammatory" material.

There were allegations by Palestinian leaders that the move was a deliberate attempt to restrict coverage of the widespread protests caused in the West Bank by the dissolution of El-Bireh council. All three papers have been strongly critical of the new Israeli civilian administration.

One senior *Al Fajr* journalist told me that the paper had written proof that all material in this morning's edition had been approved by the Israeli censor in the normal way. He denied that any attempt had been made to by-pass censorship in reporting on the El-Bireh affair.

The move against the press came only two days after Mr Abba Eban, the opposition Labour spokesman on

foreign affairs, tabled a Knesset question asking Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, whether Arab libraries and bookshops in the West Bank were liable to prosecution if they held books freely available in East Jerusalem.

Mr Eban asked the minister to confirm whether the "index" of books banned in the West Bank included a number of well known works of literature including George Orwell's 1984, the poems of Pablo Neruda and two historical works about the river Nile written by Alan Moorehead.

Although most West Bank municipalities have decided to back the general strike call, leading mayors are split on whether or not to stage a mass resignation. Among those opposed to the suggestion is Mr Elias Freij of Bethlehem, who argues that it would only make things easier for the Israelis.

In Ramallah today, support for the strike was total, with all shops, businesses and schools shut. Squads of Israeli troops with walkie-talkies patrolled the streets while hostile looking Arabs milled around in small groups.

Less than a mile away in El-Bireh, Israeli troops had established a rooftop command position overlooking the municipality building where the job done since 1976 by Mr Ibrahim Tawil, Arab mayor, will now be carried out by Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Bar-Kochba.

Explaining Israel's policy in El-Bireh, Mr Sharon stated: "The reason for the inability of the mayor and the city council members to function is rooted in the fact that they preferred an extraneous political consideration to the well being of their city and its inhabitants, since they cut off all contact with the civilian administration."

□ Beirut: Serious differences emerged today in the Palestinian interpretation of the eight-month-old ceasefire in southern Lebanon (Robert Fisk writes). According to the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israeli reconnaissance flights over the country constitute a breach of the truce; but increased weapons supplies to Palestinian guerrillas north of the Litani river are not covered by the ceasefire accord.

In Beirut this afternoon, Mr Khalil Wazir, the military head of the PLO — who uses the nom-de-guerre Abu Jihad — claimed that the Israelis had invented a clause in the truce agreement stipulating that the guerrillas could not bring more arms into the areas they controlled in southern Lebanon.

Israeli troops remove squatters from Sinai

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, March 19

Helicopter-borne troops searched the Sinai desert today and seized 35 men, women and children who had spread out in the desert in support of their campaign to prevent the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the peninsula by April 25.

The military command said the operation was completed in the early afternoon and all 35 squatters were taken by lorry across the former international border. But The Stop the Withdrawal from Sinai movement's headquarters in Yamit said there had been approximately 100 squatters and some were still hiding. They were supplied with food and water for the Sabbath.

The squatters arrived in the early morning darkness at the site of Hamat Adar, an illegal desert settlement twice cleared by the Army and levelled. The squatters pitched tents and assembled tin shacks.

The operation had been timed for a Friday, apparently on the assumption that the Army have limited time to complete an operation before the start of the Sabbath at sunset. Most of the squatters were religious Jews and their eviction on the Sabbath might have caused a Cabinet crisis.

A lieutenant-colonel appeared at the encampment in the morning and tried unsuccessfully to persuade the squatters to leave. Later, when the squatters saw a military convoy approaching, they abandoned their encampment and dispersed in the surrounding dunes into previously prepared positions.

The Army summoned reinforcements, including airborne troops. Jeeps rounded up squatters some of whom hid among the sparse vegetation. The Army refused to move and had to be dragged to the lorries for evacuation. The activists later said they would be back at Hamat Adar.

The operation had been

Gandhi hopes high for better ties with Britain

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, March 19

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, reflected today on the difficult relationship between India and the United States and said she wished it were better. She said, too, that there was no question of any lessening in India's friendship with Russia.

We are trying to have a better relationship with the United States. They have made a global strategy and I do not know what part India plays in that, if any.

"It is up to them. We are not doing anything unfriendly. A lot in the world depends on the attitude of the United States and I would be glad if the relation-

ship were warmer and better." Mrs Gandhi said friendship with the Soviet Union was valuable and India wanted to retain it. "They have stood by us and helped, especially in development, when no one else wanted to."

"There is no question of lessening friendship with the Soviet Union. We have not allowed them (the Russians) to influence our judgment, actions or policies."

Mrs Gandhi, who is visiting Britain from Sunday in connection with the festival of India, was talking to me in her room in the Parliament building in Delhi. She said she hoped her visit and talks with Mrs Thatcher would

help to create "a more normal and better relationship" with Britain. Some of the past had been unhappy, but "that is history and we are trying to give contemporary relevance to our relationship. An important part of this is economic cooperation." She hoped that the exhibitions showing Indian culture, science and what we are trying to do in our country today would help to make India better understood.

"India is not a country you can easily ignore. Most people like or dislike it intensely. Its complexities baffle them."

She said that the impressions many people had of

India were drawn from the press, and that visitors from abroad found the Indian reality quite different from the impressions they had gained from newspapers.

The role of the press came up again when she talked of her image. "I am not dismayed by my image in the foreign press. It is so utterly incorrect it misleads, but it doesn't affect us (in India). We are doing what is right."

When she agreed she got on well with Mrs Thatcher, she added with a broad smile: "I get on well with most people, strange as may seem. I got on well with President Reagan in Cancun ... on a personal basis."



Workers grill the Pope

From Christopher Thomas, Miami, March 19

Crone refugee camp is an ugly yellow-brick structure that stands incongruously alone amid thousands of acres of tomato fields west of Miami, Florida.

Within its towering perimeter nearly 600 of the 2,100 Haitian refugees imprisoned in the United States spend endless, tedious days watching television programmes they cannot understand and wondering what the future holds.

America is acutely embarrassed by Crone, yet nobody seems to know what to do with it. Some see it as a human rights scandal. Others regard it as a chilling example of what could happen on a large scale if the United States had a huge influx of refugees, as well it might if the Central American turmoil worsens.

The Haitian boat people fled from the regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier, a regime that Washington says is not guilty of human rights violations. They arrived for the most part in leaky wooden boats. Many of them have been held for nine to 10 months.

Normally they could expect to be processed by the Department of Immigration and quickly released to relatives or others pending an immigration hearing. Since mid-1981 that has all changed.

The Reagan administration ordered illegal immigrants,

Florida lawyers file suit to free Haiti refugees

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The Reagan administration ordered illegal immigrants,

not just Haitians, to be detained until their request to enter the United States could be heard. The Haitians were the first victims of the policy, and all those who were caught are now in the Crone or other camps and prisons in Puerto Rico, New York, Kentucky and Texas.

Intensive "search and return" operations were ordered on the high seas by President Reagan to stop the boat people coming, and they worked. The problem now is what to do with those who made it.

Attorneys representing the Haitian community in Florida are alleging that detention of the refugees is illegal and discriminatory, and initial proceedings have begun in the federal district court in Miami to try to secure their release.

The case centres on the plight of the Crone inmates. The outcome could be important in shaping America's attitude to the future arrival of refugees on its shores and frontiers.

All the Haitians requested political asylum. Each is entitled to an individual hearing and has the right to a lawyer. All can appeal if the request is denied and all must be provided with a Creole translator. Quite simply, there are not enough hearing examiners, lawyers or translators available to cope with President Reagan's new policy.

Unrest in Ghana Rawlings foils coup plot in Army

From Godfrey Morrison, Abidjan, March 19

Reliable reports reaching here of an abortive coup plot against Ghana's 11-week-old military Government confirm other indications that the regime's hold on power remains fragile. Its success in dealing with the country's economic plight has been meagre.

Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seized power in a New Year's eve coup, overthrowing the civilian Government of President Hilla Limann, since when the ruling Provisional National Defence Council has been waging a "holy war" against the country's endemic corruption, and has been trying to restore some kind of order to its chaotic finances.

One of the main threats to the defence council has been a lack of cohesion in the armed forces, of whom its power ultimately rests. It is therefore particularly ominous that the recent coup plot should have been discovered in the armed forces.

A reliable source told The Times that the plot was discovered in Accra on March 4, when an Army captain was taken part in a rehearsal for a parade to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of independence, due to be held two days later, and the Ghanaian security authorities, mindful of how President Sedat of Egypt was assassinated during a military parade, took him in for questioning. Under interrogation the officer apparently confessed, implicating four other officers and eight other soldiers, the source said.

When the parade was held it was noted that Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings was not in his usual flamboyant self. Instead of arriving at the parade in full view of the public, standing on top of an armoured car, as is his wont, he was in the back of the vehicle and only emerged, surrounded by heavily armed guards, to take part in the parade ground.

Qualified observers noted that he appeared to be wearing a flak jacket under his tunic and that throughout the ceremony he was surrounded by moving bodyguards which would have made it very difficult for any sniper to get a sight on him. Heavily armed guards stood

facing diplomats and journalists attending the parade. This circumstantial report confirms accounts reaching The Times from Lomé, the capital of Ghana's eastern neighbour Togo, of continuing unrest in Ghana, and, more particularly, of falling discipline within the armed forces.

The strongest card held by the Government is still the widespread personal popularity of Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings, particularly among workers and radical intellectuals, but he faces a difficult task. The country is still very short of foreign exchange and shortages of essential items.

A key question, however, must be how long Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings' popularity, founded in part on a belief that he can deliver the economic goods, will survive continued austerity. Earlier this week the defence council decreed that all applications by trade unions for wage increases should be withdrawn in view of the economic situation.

The effect of such an order is mitigated to some extent by the defence council's success in decreasing reductions in such things as rents and transport charges. But these are ad hoc measures and do not amount to a coherent economic policy to deal with such basic problems as runaway inflation and grossly overvalued currency. This uncertainty is a principal source of complaint among Ghana's traditional elite — the middle classes in government and the private sector. However, their power has been greatly curtailed by "people's defence committees" run by junior staff members.

These committees, though initially popular with the man in the street, do not encourage discipline. But if the defence council is not clear about its economic strategy it certainly seems to know what it wants when it comes to the arts, and has launched what amounts to a cultural revolution.

Last week, a defence council member said the government was going to ban foreign-oriented music on the radio.

240 held in Jakarta

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, March 19

Armoured cars, police in riot gear and troops with unslung rifles patrolled the tense northern sector of the Indonesian capital today after an arson and rioting on Thursday which left at least 63 injured, hundreds of shops damaged and scores of cars burnt.

The Jakarta security authorities denied there had been any deaths in the rioting at Thursday's election rally. However, hospital sources told me there had been at least three deaths by stoning. The number of people officially reported to have been arrested had risen to 240 today with the number of injuries put at more than 60.

Muslim services broadcast at midday today included calls for "patience and demonstrations" and a com-

munique issued by the country's political parties after a meeting called for continuing campaigning with tight discipline, and a possible ban on people under 16 attending the rallies.

The northern business district of Jakarta, much of it Chinese, was firmly bolted behind iron doors today with hundreds of children and gangs of youths were on street corners and sitting on pavements.

There were scattered reports of violence and car burning today but these were almost impossible to check. Journalists travelling through the northern business district saw hundreds of broken windows in government offices, shops and restaurants.

Kenya bans play by left-wing novelist

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, March 19

Kenya's leading novelist, Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, is protesting strongly here about the refusal of the Kenyan authorities to approve a performance of his latest play, *Maitu Njirga* (Mother tell it to me), which contrasts the cruelties and discriminations of pre-independent Kenya with present-day problems of the country's peasants.

Ngugi wrote the play in his native Kikuyu language, and it was to have been performed by a rural theatre cooperative in the Kamirithu group, from the Limuru area near Nairobi. But the group's plan to present it at the National Theatre in Nairobi failed when the application for a permit brought no response, although they never received a formal rejection.

The issue has aroused great interest here. Ngugi is the author of several novels, including *Petals of Blood*, *Weep not Child* and *The River Between*. He was associate Professor of Literature at Nairobi University until he was detained in 1977. No reason was given for his detention, and he was released on the orders of President Daniel arap Moi after the death of President Kenyatta in 1978. He then applied for reinstatement at the university, but was unsuccessful.

The new play appears to have angered officials, probably because it is regarded as too left-wing in its ideas. Ngugi is a socialist, has been a member of the Kamirithu group, and has made no secret of his dislike of Kenya's capitalist policies, which, he says, have resulted in the exploitation of the peasants.

The play also appears to some of its critics to be seditious — in the sense that it is likely to cause hatred between Africans and whites by exaggerating the alleged indignities of a forced labour system 50 years ago, and by portraying Africans as being raped and crucified in their struggle for freedom.

The play is to a large extent allegorical, and would be unlikely to offend a sophisticated audience, but the authorities seem to fear its impact on the unsophisticated.

However, the official opposition has now gone further than banning one play, and the local chief has ordered the Kamirithu group to disband. Local police have dismantled the group's theatre, an open-air affair with simple seats for several hundred spectators, surrounded by a bamboo fence.

The group had been invited to travel to Zimbabwe to present the play there, but they are unlikely to be issued with passports. The Minister about its economic strategy it certainly seems to know what it wants when it comes to the arts, and has launched what amounts to a cultural revolution.

Last week, a defence council member said the government was going to ban foreign-oriented music on the radio.

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European Law Report

Court of Justice of the European Communities

French imports of wine from Italy

Commission of the European Communities (applicant) and the Italian Republic (intervener) against the French Republic (defendant)

Case No 42/82 R Before the President of the Court of Justice, Judge J. Mertens de Wilmars, Advocate General: Sir Gordon Slynn.

[Order made March 4] On February 4, 1982 the Commission acting in accordance with Article 165 of the EEC Treaty commenced proceedings against the French Republic for a declaration that the latter had failed to fulfil its obligations under Community law.

On February 5 the Commission acting in accordance with Article 165 of the Treaty and Article 85 of the rules of procedure made an application for the adoption of interim measures requiring the French Republic to ensure the

free movement of wine pending the outcome of the main action. In his judgement, the President first considered whether a prima facie case had been made out in accordance with Article 83(2) of the rules of procedure and after referring inter alia to violent demonstrations in France against Italian wine imports which were followed by increased French restrictions, concluded that it had.

He then considered whether interim measures were necessary under Article 165 of the Treaty and concluded that they were. Holding that economic and political difficulties such as those canvassed in the case could not be taken into account in the main action, he made the following order:

1. Pending the judgment to be given in the main action, the French Republic, as regards the release for consumption in Italy of specific quantities of wine, is required to adhere to the restrictions specified hereunder:

(A) Apart from special cases where specific evidence may justify a suspicion of fraud, the frequency of analyses before release for consumption of the consignments presented at the frontier, must not exceed 15 per cent of the consignments presented at the frontier.

Heinrich v Commissioner of police of the Metropolis Before Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Brightman (now Lord Brightman)

[Judgment delivered March 19]

Statements made by a complainant in the course of an investigation into the conduct of the police under section 49 of the Police Act 1964 were protected on the ground of public interest privilege. As a result during the course of a civil action brought by the complainant for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, the police could not cross-examine him on his statement. If there could be a waiver of public interest immunity, then waiver should be by the person providing the statement and not its recipient.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal in the plaintiff, Gerard Anthony Heinrich, during the course of the trial before Mr Justice Russell who had ruled that the defendant, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement. It was held that the statement had been made as a complainant pursuant to the section 49 investigation.

Mr Justice Russell indicated that he would welcome the

guidance of the Court of Appeal and the court on March 14, 1982 decided that *Neilson v Langhorne* (The Times December 19, 1980, [1981] QB 736) was binding on the court and reserved their judgments on their reasons for their decision.

Mr Colin Ross-Munro, QC, and Mr Alan Baylis for the plaintiff; Mr Laurence Marshall for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the plaintiff was arrested and charged with a minor offence under the Vagrancy Act 1824. The charge was dismissed and he was released. The police for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

During the course of an investigation into police conduct under section 49 of the 1964 Act the plaintiff made a statement which was in the defendant's possession and it was likely that statements had been made by the two policemen about whose conduct the plaintiff complained.

been the practice of the police solicitor to advise police defendants in civil proceedings to disclose all statements made by the defendant in the proceedings and that a plaintiff in a civil action would be able to take copies of only of his own statement but also copies of statements made by police officers and the plaintiff could then be cross-examined.

That was a fair way of dealing with such litigation because witnesses could be cross-examined on previous inconsistent statements. As a result of the decision in *Neilson*, which had made those statements immune from disclosure, the defendant was able to claim immunity for all statements made by the police in the course of the investigation.

The trial judge ruled that the defendant was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement. The ruling revealed the difficulty trial judges had in dealing with civil claims against the police.

The defendant's counsel had the plaintiff's statements in his

brief. The plaintiff's counsel had not got, and would not get, the defendant's statements. If public interest immunity existed, the recipient of the statement could not waive protection from production but waiver by the maker of the statement raised different considerations. If the complainant had complied his statement at home and kept a copy, he would not be bound to disclose that copy in his list of documents.

Nor would there be any public interest in disclosing statements to assist in the investigation of a statement made for the purposes of section 49 proceedings, if the maker of the statement wished it to be disclosed.

Perhaps that was not strictly a question of waiver; but of public interest immunity ceasing to attach to a statement in particular circumstances. In that sense, only, could one question the view that public interest immunity could not be waived.

The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Solicitor for Metropolitan Police; Davis Hanson.

Law Report March 20 1982 Court of Appeal

Privilege for complaints

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The trial judge ruled that the defendant was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement. The ruling revealed the difficulty trial judges had in dealing with civil claims against the police.

The defendant's counsel had the plaintiff's statements in his

brief. The plaintiff's counsel had not got, and would not get, the defendant's statements. If public interest immunity existed, the recipient of the statement could not waive protection from production but waiver by the maker of the statement raised different considerations. If the complainant had complied his statement at home and kept a copy, he would not be bound to disclose that copy in his list of documents.

Nor would there be any public interest in disclosing statements to assist in the investigation of a statement made for the purposes of section 49 proceedings, if the maker of the statement wished it to be disclosed.

Perhaps that was not strictly a question of waiver; but of public interest immunity ceasing to attach to a statement in particular circumstances. In that sense, only, could one question the view that public interest immunity could not be waived.

The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Solicitor for Metropolitan Police; Davis Hanson.

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PARLIAMENT April 19 1982

Argentina withdrawal the only first step

FALKLANDS

Mr. Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, made a statement to the Commons bringing MPs up to date with the latest situation on the Falkland Islands. He said: "Our objectives remain as already stated in the House."

Mr. Pym continued (this statement went on) in his efforts to persuade the Argentine Government to agree to the recommendations of the Security Council Resolution No 502. His mission provides the best hope of achieving that objective. The position is delicate and the House will not expect me to reveal details of the negotiations. We remain grateful to Mr. Haig and shall continue to cooperate fully with his efforts.

Meanwhile we are stepping up the military, economic and diplomatic pressure on Argentina. Our naval task force is steadily approaching the area of the Falkland Islands, continuing its ability to carry out whatever tasks may be required of it. It is an aid to tell the House that Norway has today joined with the members of the European Community and certain important Commonwealth countries in banning imports from Argentina.

The 22 marines who were captured in South Georgia and the remaining seven from the Falklands, as well as 13 British scientists evacuated from South Georgia, have arrived safely in Montevideo.

I am glad to say that they are now on their way back to Britain. The British scientists remain in South Georgia and we have their well-being and safety very much in mind. The latest report on April 18 confirmed that all were safe and well.

The three British journalists arrested last week in Argentina are expected to be released before a judge today. The British Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires are keeping us informed of developments.

Argentina must have no doubts about our resolve to exercise our rights to the Falklands. We will prove necessary. But I can assure the House that we are making every possible effort to get a satisfactory settlement to this dispute by peaceful means.

The Government will continue to keep the House informed.

Mr. Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said: "East, Lab, Labour MPs welcome the decision of the Norwegian Government to join the Community in sanctions against Argentina."

The Opposition shares the Government's objectives, which include the withdrawal of all Argentine troops and other persons from the Falkland Islands before Britain engages in direct negotiations with Argentina for a peaceful settlement of the status of the islands.

All of us agree that Mr. Haig's mission provides the best hope for a peaceful settlement, and I hope we shall all do everything we can to assist him in succeeding.

If no immediate agreement on sovereignty after the Argentine withdrawal can be reached — and this seems a realistic possibility — the stumbling block according to statements by Secretary of State Haig himself — will be the Government's decision to join the United Nations to undertake this role.

This would free the United States administration to express the views of the American people, that America should not behave as neutral between the aggressor and his victim or

between a democratic ally and a dictatorship whose actions have often been hostile to the United States in recent years.

Can he give an assurance that the Government will not reduce its forces at present available for the defence of Belize so long as the threat from Guatemala persists?

Mr. Pym: I am grateful for what he said at the beginning of his intervention and the support that he has given to the Government. I am sure that what we are trying to achieve.

The vital thing to do first is to secure Argentine withdrawal in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 502. The methods, of course, are open to discussion, but that must be the first objective.

It would be wrong at the present time to consider what might happen if the most unfortunate event of all should occur, that the Argentine Government were to refuse to negotiate with the Argentine Government. It would be wrong to go beyond that. Every hope and every effort must be made to do everything possible to make that successful.

As for the position of the United States, it has always seemed to me that while Mr. Haig and the United States administration are trying to achieve the withdrawal of Argentine forces, it would be inappropriate that they should be in any position other than that of a neutral observer.

As to Belize, I can give the assurance that there is no date fixed for any change in the situation there. We have the situation in Central America much in mind. There is no change envisaged in the future in our military situation there.

Mr. Healey: I think there is a misunderstanding by him of the suggestion I put on the question of the United Nations Secretary-General being asked to provide an administrator.

The suggestion I made in the House last week was that, if it appears to be the case, the difficulty of implementing an Argentine agreement to the withdrawal of its forces from the Falklands, during the period when negotiations between Britain and Argentina are in progress, is that the obstacle — would the Government consider — trying to get the sovereignty issue out of the immediate argument by inviting the United Nations to provide an administrator.

Mr. Pym: We have never suggested that these negotiations are clearly difficult and there are a number of obstacles. A great many proposals and ideas have been brought forward to try to resolve these difficulties. That is why the negotiations are about the principles we have stated. We have exploited many options in the course of these negotiations and there are many more of them, so this is not necessarily the way ahead.

Mr. Russell Johnston (Inverness, Lab): Do the publicized views of the British Ambassador to the United States represent the views of the Government on the question of the attitude of the United States? Can we say anything more about the Soviet attitude or activity?

Mr. Pym: I made our position clear so far as the attitude of the United States Government is concerned. At the present time they are involving themselves in negotiations with ourselves and the Argentine. The Soviet Union are undoubtedly involved in the Falkland Islands and the Argentine.

Mr. Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab): The Prime Minister has spoken of our many friends. Who are these friends? Are they the Americans? Are we not, right, left, and centre, right across the political spectrum, even among pacifists who have been taken in by the right wing governments, and using the entire human world?

It is an illusion to think that the Americans will be any more than an American president, from California is made aware of the attitude of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Pym: Most South American states have expressed their concern over the action by the Argentine. They may have certain sympathy with Argentine claims but they do not have

genuine flag or administration being left behind.

Mr. Pym: We have substantial achievement in the United Nations by the rapid passing of resolution 502 which, in effect, refers to the Falklands and to this is not only a matter of the utmost importance to us in Britain, but of importance to freedom loving countries all round the world. They have an interest in ensuring a withdrawal takes place as much as we have.

Mr. Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, Lab): Is it not the case that both countries are getting the whole issue out of perspective — the Argentine Government by its statement that its soldiers will stay dead or alive on the Falkland Islands and Britain by its declaration that it will shoot first when the task force arrives?

Mr. Pym: I am not sure he is right about shooting first. The Argentine invaded the Falkland Islands when we were, and the Argentine Government is negotiating with the Argentine about the future of the Falkland Islands.

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Dalyell: who are our friends?

sympathy with the methods used to try and secure their success.

The Organization of American States did not support the Argentine invasion and the United Nations has passed a resolution. Countries have expressed sympathy with the ideas but not with the way this has been done.

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Braine: No preconditions

Nations solution to this kind of problem?

Mr. Pym: This has always been the position, and for the Argentine, the sovereignty issue is the one which is critical. We have never said that they have changed their position to allow it to go to the Security Council. This is an area central to the talks going on and it would not be right for me to say anything further at the moment.

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Resolution must be enforced

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government was asked in the House of Lords by Lord Shackleton (Lab), spokesman for the Opposition, if it had any further steps of an international kind which might be taken over the Falkland Islands issue. Lord Shackleton, spokesman for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had repeated the statement made by the Foreign Secretary in the Commons.

Lord Shackleton said: "The House of Lords is the best place for us to face the fact that the terms that would be imposed on the Argentine Government will be unacceptable to the Argentine people."

We should take seriously the suggestion (he added) that we should ask the United Nations to appoint an administrator. If that is done, the Government must be that we return to the pre-invasion circumstances and that the law is restored to what it was before the invasion.

It is not clear what the suggestion is about the Argentine Government. It is not clear what the suggestion is about the Argentine Government. It is not clear what the suggestion is about the Argentine Government.

Mr. Pym: This is a possibility. We have never been in any doubt about our title to the Falkland Islands, which the Argentines have never been in any doubt about. We have been arguing about and discussing for a number of years the issue of sovereignty. But that in no way justifies the action they took — a major international event which no country can afford to neglect.

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Queen Beatrix with President Reagan at the White House

Queen Beatrix will address a joint session of Congress on Wednesday and will also visit New York before returning home on April 24.

Congress designated yesterday as Dutch-American friendship day and President Reagan has proclaimed 1982 as Dutch-American friendship year.

The State Department places great importance on the Dutch-American relationship, especially because of our shared political and security responsibilities in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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Ministry of Defence under fire

PAC REPORTS

Criticism of the Ministry of Defence for constantly and seriously underestimating the costs of projects was made by Mr. Lord Eversley, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, in opening a debate on 22 reports from the committee for the two years from 1980 to 1982.

Mr. Barnett (Heywood and Royton, Lab), said the reports dealt with waste and inefficiency, cost effectiveness and efficiency, value for money and financial control and accountability.

The Ministry of Defence had been reported on critically for some 30 years by successive Public Accounts Committees, and this occasion there was no exception. The committee's third report for the three successive years up to 1980-81 showed that the cash limit of the Ministry of Defence was exceeded.

He and the committee were aware of the difficulties of managing development of sophisticated military equipment. There were more than 20 projects which cost in excess of £500m, so there would be uniform difficulties and escalating costs.

But (he continued) making every allowance for the difficulties, the Ministry of Defence has constantly and seriously underestimated the costs. One is bound to wonder whether projects of its size would have been started if they contained a more realistic estimate of the costs.

torpedo, with costs at 1981 prices of £1,211m which exceeded the figure when it was first mooted in 1969 of £74m. Inflation had been substantial but there had been the slightest indication that it would have escalated to that figure he wondered whether the Secretary or Minister of Defence would have agreed to go along with it.

It would be absurd to put cash limits on the task force going to the Falkland Islands, but the House was entitled to know how much money cash expenditure would be met.

There was a constant need for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the spending of public money, and the same went for better financial control and accountability.

Mr. Peter Horsfield (Horsham and Crawley, C) said it was time the Department of Health came to a proper strategic decision about the health of the nation. Was it right to decentralize expenditure on the health services, the cuts that had to be made in the hospital building programme and the inefficiencies — the running of the health service was

money, and the same went for better financial control and accountability.

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and it was high time it was improved.

Mr. Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU) said the policy of grants for the construction of new hospitals had been responsible for the paradoxical and ironic effect of adding to the decline of the fishing industry. The effect was to add to the decline and add to existing fleets when owners were already unable to make a living under existing conditions.

There needed to be a more direct relationship between the system of subsidies and the prospects for the industry in the years ahead. He suspected there had been undue separation between the subsidies for construction and the consideration of the future fortunes of the industry.

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton, South, C) said it was a sad reflection on both the Treasury and the Ministry of Defence that for three years running the MOD had overspent its cash limits, and not by the odd million pounds. They were talking of tens of millions.

When the PAC looked at the provision of small arms ammunition it found that not only was there over-provision but that despite the overstocking there was still a shortage of certain types of ammunition.

The royal ordinance factories should be an early area for investigation and possibly some degree of privatization.

Mr. William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said the inland Revenue estimated that the black economy accounted for 7% per cent of the gross domestic product, which was about £16,000m a year, with tax losses of about £4,000m a year, which was 20 per cent of the entire yield from income tax.

Severn Bridge anxiety

WALES

Work was in hand for strengthening the Severn Bridge, Mr. Michael Roberts, Under Secretary of State for Wales, said during questions in the Commons. The Secretary of State (Mr. Nicholas Edwards) was awaiting a report of the consultants who had been asked to appraise the bridge.

The minister was answering Mr.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

TIDE OF THE FAITH

An educational concordat between the churches and the state was not the least of the achievements of Rab Butler's 1944 Act. The financial and administrative terms for church schools of several varieties within the state system are still in place. So is the entrenchment of religious education and a daily act of worship, though both are subject to loose interpretation.

Developing argument continues about the purpose and methods of Christian education in a society that is secular in tone and religiously diverse in composition. Argument continues also about the desirability of confessional schools. On the one hand Christian schools of at least two denominations form an important part of the public provision, and there is now some movement in communities of Jewish, Muslim and other faiths to avail themselves of the same arrangements. On the other hand it is said that segregated schooling is inimical to adult social harmony, and the facile argument is heard that if only the schools in Northern Ireland had been integrated its troubles would be over.

Earlier this week in an address to the National Society (a venerable Church of England institution dedicated to the advancement of Christian education) the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of these topics. He spoke with penetration. But the most memorable aspect of his address was the tone of quiet assertion of the primacy

of the Christian religion, the confidence of faith and intellect in the truth of its claims and in their universality.

It was as if a halt was being called to the long, apologetic retreat of official Christianity before the advancing alliance of secularism and relativism; a break in the churchman's habit of concession to the demands of liberal orthodoxy. The feverish mind, dazed by the strange phenomenon of a prelate standing his ground, might fancy that it caught a distant echo of the horn of Roland from the pass of Roncesvalles.

Dr Runcie's subject matter (to return to earth) was the state of religious education. Its restricted condition put Dr Runcie in mind of Gibbon's picture of the Roman Empire, in which the various modes of worship which prevailed "were all considered by the people as equally true, by the philosopher as equally false and by the magistrate as equally useful". The use the magistrate has for religious instruction, as the Archbishop also noted, changes over time. When the National Society was founded early in the last century it had the object of being able to "communicate to the Poor generally... such knowledge and habits as are sufficient to guide them through life in their proper stations...". Though less offensive to modern ears, it is no less patronizing and it betrays just as narrow an understanding of religious education to see its object as being to serve community

relations, which is a direction in which local authorities' agreed syllabuses like to point.

Dr Runcie notes others: the "creedal smorgasbord", where Christianity is served up as one item on a platter of equally valid (or invalid) appetizers; the Shakespearean equivalent, where the Christian religion is presented as a bit of our living heritage; the autonomous search for meaning, where Christianity is considered alongside agnosticism and Marxism as one of several "stances for living" which the children are invited to try out for comfort and size.

It is not the function of religious teaching in schools, to win juvenile converts, but it serves a more serious purpose than any of that. As the Archbishop says, all children of whatever cultural background "need to understand Christianity, its nature and spirit, its truth claims and its pervasive influence on their present and our past"; and while the attempt to secure commitment would be out of place in the classroom, "no serious treatment of the religious tradition could fail to make it clear that sooner or later commitment is involved".

On Dover beach the sea's sound recalled for Matthew Arnold that the Sea of Faith was once, too, at the full. "But now I only hear its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar." Yet the sea's knock and pluck is of a tide, and tides turn. Among its many voices is now audible the voice of Christian confidence.

WHY THE FRANC IS WEAK

Few foreign exchange crises have had a more unlikely starting point than that which has hit the French franc in the past week. Pressure started to build up after local elections in which the Communist Party lost ground, to the right. The foreign exchange markets often get their sums wrong, but a crisis started by a shift to the right which would normally strengthen the franc must have deeper causes.

They are easy to find. France is pursuing a policy which is consciously, some would say ostentatiously, aimed at producing expansion. The European Monetary System (EMS), of which the franc is a part, faces growing strains because the inflation rates of countries within it have failed to come closer together. And the gloomy signals from the other side of the Atlantic are reminding more and more people in Europe of how hard it will be to get back to rapid growth.

The inflationary bite of the French government has been a great deal less dramatic than its bark. Although the budget deficit has risen and is rising, it remains relatively small by the standards of most European countries. It is far smaller than that of Germany, which most would look on as a bastion of fiscal rectitude. But whereas the majority of European countries have been trying to hold

down or even reduce their budget deficits, the French have been increasing theirs. It is the change in Government's budget position, rather than the position itself, which has been worrying the foreign exchange markets.

These worries have been made worse because the socialist government came in, after several years in which the franc had been allowed to become overvalued in an effort to force French industry to become more efficient. The previous Prime Minister, M. Rene Barre, applied to the French economy a milder version of the squeeze through high exchange rates which we have seen in Britain.

Keeping the franc high has been made significantly more difficult by developments elsewhere in the European monetary scene. West Germany's current account is moving into surplus and some of the smaller nations are in trouble. The meeting of EMS member countries in February which decided on a Belgian devaluation showed the tensions which now exist. Belgium was forced to accept a smaller devaluation than it wanted because there were fears that anything larger would provoke a new crisis for the French franc. The French, backed up by the Germans, had their way on that occasion but only at the price of admitting their vulnerability. By saying that a larger Belgian devaluation would have forced France to follow suit, the authorities were admitting how weak their position had become. It is not surprising that foreign investors have started to move their money out of Paris.

How should the French government and other European nations respond to this? It is likely that there will have to be another realignment of the EMS to bring parties more into line with their true worth. Either the Belgians and French will have to go down or, which would be less embarrassing but have much the same effect, the Germans and the Dutch will have to go up. But it should not happen straight away.

Careful use of interest rates and intervention can beat off speculation in the short term while the right policy is worked out. The foreign exchange markets have noticed that realignments within the EMS have become more common in the past year and are testing to see just how easy they are to force. If the system is to have any credibility it has to be able to withstand pressures of the kind we have seen in the past few weeks. But in the long term, the French government cannot rely on other countries' money to protect it from the consequences of its own policies.

THE SUBSIDY MUDDLE

For many Londoners, it will be back to Shanks's Pony, the bicycle, and the unending guerrilla war with the traffic wardens from tomorrow. More, no doubt, will simply pay twice this week's bus or tube fare and grumble. The short golden age of low fares will be over, to the grief of the commuter and the relief of the ratepayer. In many cases, those two characters are bound up in the same person, so that the latter can comfort the former. A large minority of users, however, are tourists or live outside the GLC area, while a large minority of ratepayers, including pensioners, enjoyed no direct benefit from the policy of cheap fares. But the enforced ending of the policy will leave feelings containing a measure of regret among most who wish to see traffic in the capital running smoothly and widely available.

The state of London Transport is so dismal that even a move as rash and facile as the GLC's attempt to cut the knot raised hopes which have now foundered. There are few signs of new initiatives in prospect to revive those hopes, nor much reason for optimism about the ability of the political forces involved to take the initiative constructively. The present leadership of the GLC has shaken public confidence in the capacity of local government to administer subsidies on a large scale without yielding to the temptation to abuse its power for immediate political effect.

The government meanwhile has confined itself to scolding the GLC for its unthriftiness, and making the minor change of confirming the council's power to continue the subsidy to pensioners.

As for the Law Lords, they have been victims of much misdirected criticism for enforcing the constitutionally valid principle that whatever a local party puts in its manifesto and whatever endorsements its promises gain from the voters, a council may only do what statute says it may do. The interpretation concerning subsidies that the judges put on the statute governing public transport in London has created a practical anomaly which can only be set right by legislation. And we now have a ruling of another court that comparable subsidies provided by Merseyside authority under the statute governing provincial transport authorities are lawful.

Until last October, London Transport had for years been losing passengers at an annual rate of 2 per cent. The fare cut has been followed by a rise at a rate of 10 per cent. Tomorrow's increase in fares is expected to bring an 18 per cent loss of traffic. It is not simply out of habit that most major cities in developed countries subsidize public transport fares at a rate at least as high as that attempted by Mr Livingstone. There are social benefits in encouraging

full use of the expensive public investment in transport services.

The GLC's mistakes (apart from misreading the law) were to concentrate on fares to the exclusion of other factors, and to pursue their course even when it became apparent that government policies would make it far more expensive to the ratepayers than had been envisaged. Fare subsidies are not enough. Reliability, frequency of service, cleanliness, convenience of routes, and integration between different means of transport are all important too. Paris, for instance, subsidizes its fares at 56 per cent compared to Mr Livingstone's 46 per cent — but its success is based at least as much on steady pursuit over the years of all these objectives together.

If the law does not allow systematic subsidy for London transport, it must be changed. But the GLC, politicized as it is and with only the rates to dip into, is not competent to hold the responsibilities and the needs of visitors, between a proper care for the buildings and a proper concern for the staff who have to make them work, and so on.

Redefining the teacher's role

From Mr Donald Harris and others
Sir, The question of corporal punishment has come to occupy too central, too prominent a position in the debate about discipline in schools.

The undersigned, all ex-teachers with between 24 and 40 years' experience in London primary and secondary schools, as heads and heads of departments, believe, with the benefit of hindsight (though none of us opposed it in the past) that corporal punishment ought now to be abandoned by the profession, but not without a prior drastic re-statement of the role of the teacher.

That aspect of the teacher's authority which is most vulnerable, because requiring a consensus, is the one being most undermined: namely the position "in loco parentis". The consensus here has broken down, and as you have yourself commented, the farcical possibility now exists that some children will need to be distinguished (by a yellow armband — shades of Hitler!) from the rest, marking them out for derision by their fellows, to indicate parental disapproval of the cane.

In our opinion, teachers should now reject their place "in loco parentis" and the whole "pastoral" rigmarole retreating (if that is the word) to an invulnerable authority as teachers, ie, purveyors of knowledge (since there seems to be some doubt in some quarters) passing the "pastoral" buck back where it belongs, to the parents. Thus, if Johnny won't behave, he can go home until he changes his ways.

Of course, for this to become meaningful to the uncooperative parent who, too often, doesn't even care for his child's safety, such a measure would have to be accompanied by a parallel attack on his pocket, by loss of child allowance until he secures the required change of behaviour from his child, causing him to attend, work and behave.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD HARRIS,
ERIC H. FOSTER,
ANDREW G. KNOX,
R. MABEY,
FRED W. MATTHEWS,
HELEN W. OLVER,
E. L. WILLIS,
90 Breakspurs Road, SE4.

Texteth? No

From Mr Paul Laxton
Sir, Would it spoil everybody's fun to point out that St Saviour's School, Liverpool, is not, and never has been, in Texteth? I have watched with interest the way that London-based journalists in search of a byword for bad news, have redrawn the geography of this city. Before last summer, pundits and tourists did their slum-crawling in Liverpool 8; at least that postal district more accurately defines the "problem" area and incidentally, does contain that poor beleaguered school.

How much the reach-me-down word Texteth has grown in the consciousness of the opinion makers in the outside world may be judged from the morning's (March 19) 8.30 bulletin on Radio 4, which referred to "the Liverpool district of Texteth". Last summer, had the purveyors of instant misinformation looked at the sign at the top of Parliament Street, where the riotous were concentrated, they would have read the following: "Texteth 14".

Yours sincerely,
PAUL LAXTON,
The Department of Geography,
University of Liverpool,
Roxby Building, Liverpool.

Italian mail delays

From Mrs Donald Wayne
Sir, Monsignor Bruno James, in his letter of March 18, is quite right in warning your readers about the state of the Italian mails.

Friends of mine in Rome have been using the Vatican Post Office for many years, and friends in Milan go across the border into Switzerland to post their letters for abroad.

I was in Venice last Christmas and not realising that the internal mails are now equally hopeless sent three small parcels, presents to friends in Bolzano, from the Central Post Office near the Rialto on the morning of December 22. Bolzano is 165 miles north of Venice.

One parcel arrived within two weeks; one has never arrived; and the third arrived on February 2 looking, according to the recipients, as though it had been by Sputnik post to outer space and back with the contents ruined. Her letter telling me of this took six weeks to reach England.

Yours sincerely,
HELENA WAYNE,
Russett Cottage,
Mill Lane, Burwell, Cambridge.

Concern over museum

From the Chairman of National Heritage
Sir, Museums have a delicate job at the best of times in balancing conflicting responsibilities:

between the demands of academics and the needs of visitors, between a proper care for the buildings and a proper concern for the staff who have to make them work, and so on.

National Heritage applauds, and has publicly commended the courageous policy which the Natural History Museum has followed in recent years: the refusal to allow the museum to decay gently in a posture as inflexible as a frozen Siberian mammoth: the determination to think freshly about what and who the museum is for. So, however

Getting closer together in Europe

From Sir Henry Plumb, MEP for Cotswolds (Conservative)

Sir, Your consideration of "Eurogroup" and Western European Union (leading article, March 16) clearly outlines some of the political and economic problems which surround the question of correcting the present political asymmetry within the Atlantic Alliance. It is worth while considering the developments which are taking place within the Community as well. These suggest that increasing Europe's contribution towards her own security means more than tackling the tricky problem of European defence cooperation as such.

European political cooperation, the system whereby the foreign ministries of the member states of the Community coordinate their foreign policies outside the confines of the Treaty of Rome, has already made a significant contribution towards developing the political relations between Community member states and other European countries. This is especially important in the case of applicant states such as Portugal and Spain but it applies elsewhere as well.

During the British presidency last year it was agreed formally that the five times that security matters should be discussed within the context of European political cooperation. This was achieved despite the fact that France is not a member of the integrated military structure of Nato. Five is neutral and other member states, notably Denmark, had certain reservations about proceeding along this path.

Now the Council is considering even more ambitious proposals.

Dialogue with S. Africa

From the Reverend T. H. Bishop

Sir, One of the keys — perhaps the major key — in cracking the system of apartheid in South Africa is theological. Your reference to "the Calvinist conscience which lurks at the back of the Afrikaner mind" in your perceptive leader of March 9 should remind critics in Christendom, and in particular churchmen in Britain, of this fact.

I worked in South Africa for 32 years, and I recall the late Bishop Reeves, in the early 1950s, maintaining that the transformation of South African society depended upon establishing a creative and sustained dialogue with the Dutch Reformed Church; and, because almost all the members of the Nationalist Government are members of this church, it was necessary to bring about the dismantling of the system. This process began at the Cottesloe conference, and it remained one of the main hopes

Not cricket

From Colonel Patrick Montgomery
Sir, The Reverend D. J. Pitcher (March 10) writes that Indian Law requires that equal opportunities for education and for employment be open to members of all parts of Indian society and believes that "this is in contrast to the laws which govern South Africa".

I suggest that the difference lies in the fact that, while South Africa makes no secret of its violation of human rights, the Government of India makes little or no attempt to conceal its laws which purport to defend them.

Article 23 (1) of the Indian Constitution states: "Traffic in human beings and *begar* (bonded labour) ... are prohibited." Yet in its annual report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes since this office was established in 1947 has drawn the Government's attention to the continuing prevalence of bonded labour in rural areas. In 1975 Mrs Gandhi, as Prime Minister, said "Bonded labour is barbarous and will be abolished".

The law is not enforced because the land-owners and money lenders whose wealth and power rest on debt-bondage, control the *panchayats* (councils) at village and all higher levels, the only tribunals to which bonded labourers can take their grievances. Government officials are seized by the police and ground approximately to that of the landowner and are unlikely to implement laws which might weaken their power.

The Bulletin of the National Labour Institute (New Delhi, 1977), estimated that between five and seven million labourers were in debt-bondage.

Professor V. Bhalerao, in a report of 1978, found that of an estimated 100,000 prostitutes in Bombay 50 per cent had been sold by their owners into prostitution and had no freedom whatever.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MONTGOMERY,
The Oast House,
Frantfield Road,
Buxted, Sussex.

TV broadcasting by satellite

From Lady Falkender

Sir, The Home Secretary's announcement last week that Britain is to make an early start with direct broadcasting by satellite was quite rightly enthusiastically and warmly received. But may I write in support of what Lord Aylestone said a week ago and repeat that there is concern that there is not immediate provision for IBA and commercial television participation. I hope the Government will think again on this.

I hope they will give more information about the background to their decision. For instance, we need to know much more about the financing of the operation, not only when DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) becomes a fact but now, too, in its planning stages. Satellite providers must clearly, and justifiably, have wished for a speedy decision to go ahead, in view of the advantages for them in selling British technology in foreign markets. But I hope the need quickly, as Mr Whitelaw said, to "sign-up with the consortium" did not play too big a part in prompting the Government to give the two planned satellite channels to the BBC.

After all, it has always been open to the Government from the start to encourage IBA and other commercial television involvement. Both IBA and BBC must be in this at the start, along with the independent commercial companies; otherwise we may all be forced to conclude that this is yet another example of the "Yes Minister" syndrome. The subsequent announcement of an early start for BBC breakfast television ahead of the independent service only underlines the advantage the BBC seem to have over their rivals.

British technology, i.e. British Aerospace, Marconi, British Telecom and the rest, is magnificent. But please, Mr Whitelaw, don't become a prisoner of the television industry. The high standard of television broadcasting we enjoy in this country, and of which we are rightly proud.

Yours sincerely,
MARCIA FALKENDER,
3 Wyndham Mews,
Upper Montagu Street, W1.
March 11.

Constructive dialogue is better than barren, hostile and often ill-informed criticism. The former process should be pursued by Christians on the spot in South Africa, and actively encouraged by churchmen here, including the British Council of Churches.

Criticism and boycotts will, as you rightly maintain, only sort the situation and lead to isolation and intransigence. Charity and sustained efforts are required if the redemption and subsequent transformation of South African society is to be achieved for all races.

I am, Sir,
Yours sincerely,
T. H. BISHOP,
Commissionary of the Bishop of George, Cape Province,
The Church of the Province of South Africa
91 Park Avenue North, NW10.

Criticism and boycotts will, as you rightly maintain, only sort the situation and lead to isolation and intransigence. Charity and sustained efforts are required if the redemption and subsequent transformation of South African society is to be achieved for all races.

This is simply not the case. We are responsible, at points of entry, for operating documentary and physical controls relating to a wide range of legislation made under the Plant Health Act 1967 and the Forestry Act 1967. We act in conjunction with the various United Kingdom agricultural departments and the Forestry Commission with whom our officers at the ports and airports are in regular contact. However, none of the regulations in force in this country requires customs officers to fumigate aeroplanes or to insist on the destruction of plant, vegetable or similar material which is found to be infested with insects which could bring diseases into this country?

By no means all categories of plants, plant material, fruit, seeds and insects are subject to import restrictions and I cannot therefore comment on whether the presence of customs staff at Gatwick Airport of the material carried by Mr Samuel was correct. However I can say that, in connection with these controls, considerable quantities of fruit, plants and similar material are seized by customs and destroyed elsewhere and subsequently destroyed.

Finally, may I say that I hope that ecologists, knowing the risks involved, will take steps to inform themselves about the import requirements imposed under plant and animal health legislation — and to abide by them. Detailed information can be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Plant Health Branch, Eagle House, 30-32 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3BT.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS LOVELOCK,
Chairman,
HM Customs and Excise,
King's Beam House,
Mark Lane, London EC3.

many directors find catastrophic — as witness the recent report on the nation's geological collections, made by a highly respected committee of national directors.

There is no reason to hope that the ethnological or natural history collections are in any better shape, nationally speaking; and we would do well to look at the proposals made by the directorate of the Natural History Museum against the background, and trust them to serve as well for the next century as the Waterhouse building has served for the last.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LETTIS,
Chairman,
National Heritage,
24 North Street, SW4.
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the current controversy is resolved, we feel it will be very valuable if it helps to throw a searching light on a deplorable black hole in this country's attitude to museums: the fact that the collections and the building that houses them remain scandalously under-funded.

Few realize that while art galleries have had the support of central government rebuilding funds for several decades through the Arts Council, this does not apply to museums. With the revisions made by the Minister for the Arts to the new Museums and Galleries Commission last year came the first glimmer of hope in the form of a capital fund of a modest £100,000 (for the entire country). Meanwhile the condition of the collections within the decaying fabric has reached a state which

Yours etc,
PETER DAVISON,
Darwin College,
The University,
Canterbury,
Kent.
March 18.

Saturday Review

When he was thirteen, in the 1940s, Philip Oakes was expelled from the Bluecoat School in Wolverhampton after naming the headmaster as an embezzler. He was sent in disgrace to a Methodist run Children's Homes school in Lancashire. "Plans had been made, letters had been exchanged, my future had been decided without anyone troubling to ask what I felt about the matter. I was hurt and I was infuriated."



Dishonourable schoolboy

by Philip Oakes

transgress and advising me that I was under observation. Evidently I was considered a hard case, and I remembered my mother and my uncle filling in forms which they hid when I came into the room and which I had subsequently failed to intercept. In their eagerness to feed the archives they had provided me with a reputation which it would have been perilous to live up to. I resolved there and then never to come into direct conflict with Mr King.

He walked up and down my strip of the floor. "That's more like it. Now go and get washed. Shirt off and don't forget to do behind your ears."

In the washroom a line of smaller boys filed past a woman wearing a blue silk dress with a starched white collar. Her name was Sister Aggie, and with Mr and Mrs King she shared the running of Mossop House. As I already knew from the pamphlets with which my mother had been supplied, the homes were largely financed by Methodist chapels and organizations. There were 30 branches situated all over the country. There was an average of 10 houses to a branch and each of them was staffed by women known as Sisters whose job was to act as house mother to small family units of boys or girls. It was not a religious order to which they belonged, but their

uniforms and titles somehow set them apart. They were like nuns or wardresses; agents of the institution. Usually two of the Sisters were responsible for the management of a house but Mossop, as I had already been told, was where they tamed tigers. It was where the hard cases were subjected to the proper discipline and Mr King was the disciplinarian.

Sister Aggie had a flushed and fleshy face and small eyes which were miniaturized still further by the thick lenses of her spectacles. Her hair straggled from a loose bun and she had a faint but perceptible moustache. After we had washed and dried ourselves we presented ourselves for her inspection, baring our wrists and necks to show they were no tiddlers. She pored over our flesh as if searching for a text which would miraculously surface the longer she looked, but she avoided touching us except for the very smallest boys. She seemed to be in a flux of embarrassment and irritation, tossing her head so that her glasses glinted and her hair spilled over her collar. When it was my turn she peered so closely that I felt her breath graze my naked back. "Your neck's dirty," she announced.

"Where?" I tried to see myself in the mirror on the wall.

"There." She prodded me with her finger.

"I can't see anything."

"Well, I can see it," she said. "There's muck you could grow turnips in."

I sensed everyone watching me and while I tried to frame a report Mr King sauntered into the washroom. "Any bother, Sister?" he enquired.

She smoothed back her hair and lodged her glasses more securely on her nose. "No, not really."

Mr King propped himself comfortably against the wall while I scrubbed my neck with a flannel and then offered the glowing evidence to Sister Aggie. "That's better," she said. "Now you can get dressed."

"And look sharp about it," said Mr King. "It's breakfast in two minutes."

Mrs King said grace. The boys sat at four long tables, two at each end of the room, while she shared a small central table with Mr King and Sister Aggie. She was small and pale with a drooping mouth and bags like purses of lilac silk beneath her eyes. She looked as if she had slept badly and the tea was too heavy for her frail hand. When she buttered a square of toast she studied it for a full minute; then put it gently to the side of her plate. Sister Aggie refilled her cup and she sipped the tea reproachfully as though

Dwellers All in Time and Space: A Memory of the 1940s is the second volume of autobiography by Philip Oakes and followed the highly-acclaimed *From Middle England: A Memory of the 1930s*. He has written four novels, among them *Experiment at Proto* and *A Cast of Thousands*, and three volumes of poetry. An anthology of his poems, drawn from those collections, will be published by Andre Deutsch in August. A journalist and broadcaster, Philip Oakes was the film critic of *The Evening Standard* and *The Sunday Telegraph* before becoming a columnist on *The Sunday Times*.



it was medicine which she was forcing herself to drink.

The previous evening when I had been brought to the house by Mr Buller we had been shown into the sitting room where Mrs King sat on a low nursing chair, an embroidery frame in her lap. Mr Buller traced the design with his finger. "Roses again, I see," he said.

"The wife's very fond of roses," said Mr King.

Tapestries draped over the backs of two easy chairs confirmed his observation. They swarmed with red roses and yellow roses. There were even one or two blue roses.

"Does your mother do embroidery?" Mrs King asked me.

"She can't. She gets headaches."

Mrs King threaded a needle with green silk and drew it through the canvas. A leaf budded beneath her hand and she smiled sympathetically. "Your mother misses a great deal. You must be a good boy for her sake."

"And for his own," said Mr Buller. "He must make his mind up about that. No more wasted opportunities." He clapped me on the back. "Go and make yourself known to the other boys."

I did as I was told. They sat in a semi-circle around a small fire in the next room and I noticed that although several of them were bigger and I presumed older than me, all but one wore short trousers. The firelight bounced off their bare knees. "She'll have them off you," said a boy whose hair stood up from his head in Vaseline quills.

"She'll have what off me?"

"Them." He plucked my trouser-leg. "Only the biggest lads wear longies here."

"My mother bought these," I said.

They snickered silently at the fire as if I had said something amusing. "I'm telling you," said the boy with spiky hair. "You'll be back in short pants tomorrow."

"Happen he will and happen he won't," said another boy. He wore a school blazer with a badge on the breast pocket. "Where are you from?" he asked me.

"Stoke on Trent."

"That's what I heard," he said. "Like me. Back place on earth. Where exactly?"

"High Lane. Near Burslem," I said.

"Posh, are you?"

"I shook my head. 'Not a bit.'"

"Went to a posh school, though. That's what they say."

I was suddenly aware that everyone present knew my entire case-history and I was being studied to see whether I measured up to it. "I was expelled," I said.

"What for?"

"I was a bad influence."

"What's that?"

"You'll have to ask them," I said. "They just wanted to get rid of me."

"Did they whack you there?" asked the boy in the blazer.

"Sometimes."

"With a cane or a strap?"

"A cane," I said. "On the hand."

"How many?"

"It varied. Six mostly."

"They gave me a dozen

once", he said, spreading his palms for inspection. "Six on each hand."

"That for?"

"Smoking", he said. "How about you?"

I showed them a packet of Park Drive. "Where can we have a drag?"

"In the furnace room", said the boy with spiky hair. "After tea when they've all settled down."

The boy in the blazer held out his hand. "My name's Ray Clutton," he said. "Come and sit next to me. Potteries lads should stick together." He folded my fingers over the packet of cigarettes. "Put them away, for Christ's sake. You don't want everyone to see what you've got." He looked fiercely round the watching faces. "And there's not room for all of you in that furnace room. Doss and Spiff and Skelly. That's the lot."

Doss was dark and thick-set. Spiff was the boy with the spiky hair and Skelly was tall and abnormally thin. His knuckles stood out on his hands like knots of red amber and his eyes glared as if unseen thumbs were pressing them from behind. Other than myself he was the only one wearing long trousers. They were made of some dark worsted material which looked exhausted as though it had been repeatedly boiled and wrung out.

"Batley shoddy", he said, intercepting my gaze. "That's what they call it. Cheapest stuff on the market. It's for working togs mostly."

"Not like this", said Ray, fingering my flannels. "You'll get all the lasses with these. They like a bit of swank."

We shared a table for tea — slices of brown bread and margarine with one small green apple apiece — and afterwards I was led across the yard to the furnace room. It was cramped and dusty, like a shoe box stood on end. Skelly wedged the door shut with a brick. The furnace glowed and the wind sang in the chimney. I handed round the cigarettes and we all lit up. There was a concert of deep and dramatic inhalations.

"You want to keep it down as long as you can", said Ray. "That's how you get the benefit." When he exhaled, his breath revealed practically no trace of smoke. "It's all gone into the system", he explained.

I thought about Mr King and his large, inquisitive nose. "Won't they smell it on us?" I asked.

Ray delayed answering until he had digested another lungful of smoke. "He's not bothered about us. Not so long as we don't make a show of it. He's an idle bugger."

"Just do as you're told and look busy", said Spiff. "He told us that himself."

"Army rules", said Doss. "He don't want no trouble", said Skelly. "He keeps telling us not to rock the boat."

I learned that Skelly worked in the branch stores, distributing groceries to both the girls' and boys' houses. Doss was still a pupil at the branch school, but about to become apprenticed to the smithy. Spiff worked in the bakery and Ray attended a technical school at Bury. "They'll send you out too", he said confidently. "Old Buller likes to show off his bright lads."

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The next morning I woke to find someone kicking the foot of my bed. I looked up apprehensively and saw a squat, sturdy man with bright blue eyes standing over me. He wore a striped flannel shirt secured at the neck by a collar stud and a black waistcoat traversed by a gold watch chain. His arms were folded and his right hand supported the bowl of a pipe from which a blue thread of tobacco smoke climbed towards the ceiling. His posture implied that he had been waiting there for some time and that his patience was wearing thin. "All right", he said, "let's be having you. Time to rise and shine."

His name, I recalled, was Mr King. I had met him and his wife the previous evening when Mr Buller had steered me along the rutted road and through the front gate of Mossop House. "Mr King is in charge here", he said. "He's what we call the Labour Master. He makes sure the important jobs get done."

It was a flattering but not, as I discovered later, a wholly accurate description of Mr King's occupation. As Labour Master he was in charge of the casual work force of boys who had left school but had not yet been apprenticed to a regular trade. The jobs for which they could eventually train were limited to those essential to the running of the branch, but competition was fierce. There was a farm, a bakery, a boot-repairer, a smithy (which also offered a grounding in electrical repairs) and the branch stores. Only a few boys were accepted as apprentices. The rest joined Mr King's labour squad which was known as the Shop. They were responsible for sweeping the roads, moving furniture, spreading manure, mending walls, chopping firewood, clearing fields of sunken stones and laying the drains which would make them fit for farming. Everyone served time on the Shop. Older boys who were still at school were required to donate their Saturday mornings to community service. Juniors were pressed-ganged when rain threatened the hay crop or potatoes were to be planted or picked. There was no pretence that there was dignity in the labour. The work was there to be done and the chief art lay in doing as little of it as possible. I learned this in the months to come. I also came to appreciate the fathomless sloth that lay behind Mr King's busy facade. But my first impressions were very different.

As he stood by my bed I studied his face, pricked by pores as deep as dimples. He was going bald and his scalp showed pallidly between the watered scruffs of hair that spanned his head, linking ear to ear as if he was wearing headphones. He had a large but firm belly and trim dancer's feet. His arms were furrowed with fine, almost invisible hair and they were as thick as the legs of pork which Mr James, our butcher at home, attacked so fiercely with his chopper. He seemed to be lost in thought, but without warning he gripped the edge of my bed, straightened his arms and tipped me to the floor. Deliberately he took the pipe from his mouth.

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"When I say move, lad, move." I pulled on my clothes and followed the rest of the peck downstairs into the dining room. The chairs were stacked on the tables and most of the boys were on their hands and knees, hunched like jockeys, and scooting backwards in bursts of furious energy as if they were running a race in reverse. Each of them was kneeling on a felt pad, clutching a bundle of rags with which he burnished the floorboards. Each boy made several runs up and down his individual strip, applying polish from a large tin half-filled with orange wax and rubbing it off so fiercely that the oak planks glittered beneath his hands. I smelled pipe smoke behind me and turned to see Mr King leaning against the door, his legs elegantly crossed beneath his snug belly, his arms folded as before. "We have no gentlemen here," he said, apparently addressing no one in particular. "There's only working lads in this house."

A small boy with red hair so severely cropped that it looked like rash showed me a locker where the rags and polish were kept. "Help yourself," he said. I found a rag and went to work. Mr King sauntered over to watch me and when I glanced up I saw his belly looming over me like a thunder cloud. He puffed on his pipe. "Don't use so much polish. Just dab it on the floor and work it in. It's elbow grease that counts."

I tried to follow his instructions but my polishing rag was glazed with wax and left smears on the yellow boards. "Rub harder," said Mr King.

Mr heart pounded in my chest and sweat ran into my eyes. I could see myself shunting up and down my strip of floor until my hands wore holes in the rag. I examined the surface for smears and when I found none I looked up hopefully.

Mr King pointed with the glossy toe of his shoe. "What's that?"

"A stain," I said. "It's in the wood."

"Is it now?" He reached down to the offending spot and scooped up a thin ring of grease on his fingernail.

"I'm sorry," I said.

"It's no good being sorry. Learn to do it right."

I bent back and polished the strip again. "We've tamed tigers here," said Mr King.

"I beg your pardon."

"We've tamed worse than you," he pointed to a regimental badge tattooed on his right forearm. "Ten years light-heavyweight champion of the British Army in India," he said as if he was reciting his name and number. "Undefeated. Never took a count."

I was properly impressed. "We did boxing at my last school."

"Would you take me on then?" demanded Mr King.

"Not likely."

Mr King unflexed his arm and put his pipe back into his mouth. "Right, you are. Do as you're told. Pull your weight and don't get above yourself."

It was more than a pep talk, I realized. Mr King was defining limits, warning me how I might

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It crept slowly, slowly, towards the fireworks. The children began to get restless, everyone looked either embarrassed or worried, or a

bit cold, in the spring breeze, but expectant. Two blackbirds were singing like mad in the lilac tree above the bank, and just as someone was saying "It's gone out" there was one bang, a puff of yellow smoke, and then the second, bigger bang, and everybody cheered and applauded and clapped the farrier on the back and kissed his bride, and the blackbirds flew off, screeching, startled into the trees. The blacksmith was well and truly married. We strolled back past the pond, and up the High Street, back to the church, and climbed the steep, gravelled path between the leaning gravestones to the ancient wooden door. There were white and pink paper petals on the ground, and spring sunshine.

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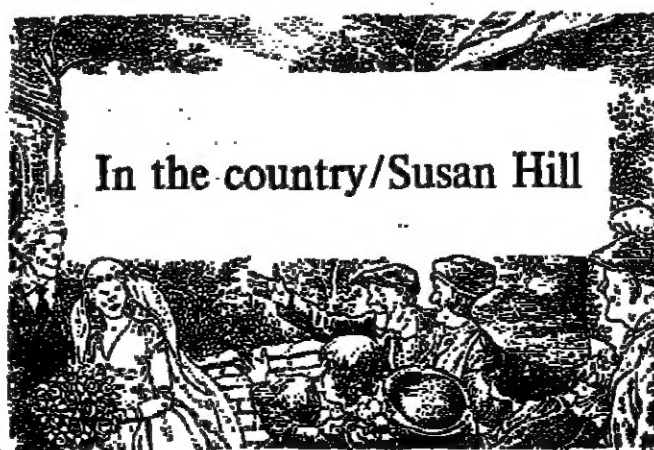
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Mrs Miggs in the springtime



In the country/Susan Hill

In the spring, bit by bit, day by day, as the nights lengthen and the weather brightens, and as the gardens are sown and planted, the village comes to obvious life again, and people come out into the open, like animals from their winter retreats.

People walk their dogs without being too brisk about it now, and take a stroll to the pub, and do their gardens, or else simply stand, in the doorway that lets on to the lane, at the gate, by the wall, watching to see who goes by, giving good day, catching up on the news. Mrs Miggs takes her upright chair, with the old, round knitted cushion and her crochets, and sits in the porch, and Mr Harrow, who is very old, very lame, opens his window wide and sits at it hour after hour, and the canary sits beside him in its cage.

Mrs Miggs was married sixty-two years ago, in Barley Church, from the Grange where she was then in

service, and where she met her husband-to-be, who was one of the gardeners, and they went back there for a year or two, until her mother died, and it was her job to return home, a hundred yards away, to the cottage she had been born in. There, she looked after her father and her husband and, later, her dead sister's three children. The Miggses had, as she put it, "no cuttings" themselves.

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Front Line/John Higgins

Peter Ustinov

Playing Hercule Poirot again in the Royal Command Performance Film, "Evil Under the Sun", opening in London on Tuesday

Peter Ustinov has been at his home near Geneva this week, looking out over the vineyards (his own) and listening to opera. The boxed sets by his hand are not exactly familiar works: Marston's *Dr. Vampyr*, Schmidt's *Der Dämon*, Rossini's *Semiramide*, and Bortolomaeus's *The Falcon*. Bortolomaeus was born in St Petersburg and sent to study composition in Italy. Ustinov is much attracted to the *Falcon*, written at the beginning of the last century, in which the elegant style of Puccini is interrupted from time to time by Russian folk-dances. He would like to stage it one day, when he has put the finishing touches to his next play, *Beethoven's Tenth*.

But first Ustinov comes to London today for next week's Royal Command Film premiere of *Evil Under the Sun*, the fourth of the Bourne-Goodwin adaptations of Agatha Christie and by far the most entertaining of the quartet. The scriptwriter, Anthony Shaffer (of *Sleuth* fame), and director, Guy Hamilton (of *James Bond* fame), have turned one of Dame Agatha's drabber novels into a glossy diversion. They have transported Sunny Ledge, Play Cove and the island "somewhere off Devon" where the Christie whodunnit is set, to the Dalmatian Coast and fixed it out with the kind of King Kong might have visited in pre-war days. Ustinov plays Poirot for the second time and turns

him into a wittier and more than a little more than he was in *Death on the Nile*. After that film, Agatha Christie's niece remarked that there was not much resemblance between Ustinov's creation and her aunt's detective, to which Ustinov replied: "I am Hercule Poirot. Well, how much of the original Poirot is there in *Evil Under the Sun*?"

"Quite a lot," Ustinov replies. "The form of the story has been preserved exactly. What we've done is to put a little flesh on the bones: the original characters are often very skeletal. Poirot, for instance, is meant to be a small, bald, middle-aged man. I can't manage easily. One at a time, perhaps, but not both together. You say that it's wittier than *Death on the Nile*. Well, that's probably right. Not a very witty place, Egypt, with all those sphinxes. It's also the difference between the two scores, *Nine* Rota for the *Nile* and Cole Porter for *Evil Under the Sun*."

The Poirot accent has also become a touch more extravagant, with Ustinov clearly relishing the intrusive "H" so that "H. Poirot" sounds like something from the fish slab. An indication of Poirot's Belgian nationality. "I'm not sure about that," Agatha Christie only made Poirot a Belgian because someone told her that there were far too many French detectives around. With an other stroke of the pen she



could easily have turned him into a Luxembourgish. On the printed page Poirot is no more Belgian than Major Thompson is English. In language terms we probably see him as one of those foreign schoolmasters whose English is too correct — all very fluent and fluid and quite artificial. Remember that Poirot only puts the simplest words into French, the complex ones are always left in English. He remains very avaricious, very honourable and very deeply in love with himself.

The main invented sequence in *Evil Under the Sun* is the one in which Poirot swims, which means that he immerses himself in the sea up to his knees. The costume, a two-piece number, was Ustinov's invention. "I wanted one of those pre-war bathing suits which were so absorbent that wearing them was like being slapped across the skin with a Dover sole. We also wanted a break in the film: the form is as rigid as an interview, with Poirot asking all the questions and not being able to put on a bravura performance until the very end."

How many more Poirot films does Ustinov envisage? "Perhaps one more, if the production team wants it. They come at roughly five-year intervals and that's just about right for me. After the next one I'd probably have to play the part in a wheelchair, like Raymond Burr. I would think like to do a Poirot set in wartime with Hercule measuring out his

ration of powdered egg and assessing the quality of the spam."

Long before that there will be *Beethoven's Tenth*, which is likely to be seen in London next autumn. Ustinov has no great love for Broadway nowadays.

"The play is set in the home of an acid but vulnerable music critic, who has spent years and years revising his string quartet composed in the late-Schoenberg idiom while upstairs his son turns out popular song after popular song. The critic is also a great Beethoven expert... One mentions a name: surely he is the model? Ustinov puts on his blandest manner: "I don't think I've ever met him. But, to resume, Beethoven walks through the house one day: he has forgotten about most of his life but the critic can put him right on all the details. He is also fitted with a deaf-aid so he can hear his music."

"After three days he has heard his complete oeuvre and the critic asks him what he thinks of it. Beethoven pauses for a moment and then replies: 'If these works had been written by anyone but me I would fall to my knees and call him Master!'"

Had Peter Ustinov thought of playing Beethoven himself? "Well, that was at the back of my mind. But I'll have to shut down a bit."

At Easter Ustinov goes to La Scala, Milan, to stage two-thirds of a Stravinsky Triple Bill, *Mauro* and an unfamiliar work *The Flood*, composed for NBC — "His *Freude durch Kraft* period, you know." Ustinov was not indicating whether Kraft was possibly spelled with a "C". The links with La Scala have been getting closer. His production there of Mussorgsky's fragment, *The Marriage*, last season was a considerable success and it is likely to be seen at the Edinburgh Festival. However, La Scala has more than its share of labour disputes and is reckoned by some to be not the easiest place to work. Ustinov appears to be unworried.

"I don't find that at all. It's the only place I know where they call you Maestro from the moment you're woken at the hotel in the morning — 'Otto a mezzo, Maestro' — to the moment you retire to bed, I find that most reassuring."

Twenty years ago on radio the question *Who Was Charleston Jimmy?* (Radio 4, March 14) would have been answered with a radio ballad, but the time and the money and the people who might make such things do not seem to be there — and even if they were I wonder if the argument is quite real to anyone that radio is actually the poorer for the omission from its repertoire. However, let that not detract from the praise due to what by any good documentary standards was a really outstanding programme. Its producer, Alec Reid, has served up some interesting things (for example, his Burns programme, *Eden Comes from Crystal*) but this, I think, was quite his best so far: not only had he resisted the temptation to record parts of it against a background of traffic and other heavy local colour, but his cooperation with the writer and presenter, Ian Hawkins, gave us some excellent material both as to form and content.

Charleston Jimmy's real name was Alexander Stanley Wilson, a fact which, to Radio Times readers, at first concealed his appearance in the programme. He was a bricklayer, and not just your ordinary bricklayer, but a legend among his contemporaries, a sublime master of his craft, who could lay more than 3,000 bricks a day. It was said of him that he would set to work in his suit and his dancing shoes and at the end of the day, with both still immaculate, he'd be off to take part in a Charleston competition.

But surely, said those contemporaries whom we heard at the beginning, Charleston Jimmy must be dead, gone to meet the Great Bricklayer in the Sky (and on more or less equal terms, you might imagine, for he was well before the end, there he was in person, run to earth by Hawkins and describing how he did it. Much lay in

even returning for the funeral. We always were a tight-knit family, remarked Jimmy grimly. Yes, replied mother, we were very close. Not close, Jimmy insisted, with a bleak and effortless lack of understanding. The point of the play was how the tight-knit family was kept up in practice, which in mother's case meant literally summoning Father back to life. Jimmy crept down in the middle of the night and found them bickering happily together about the kettle and mother's imminent death: there were papers for Jimmy to sign.

"Are you really here?" asked Jimmy. "What an unhelpful question," replied Father without answering it. Oh well, alright. A ghost story, then, about familial disingenuousness and pictures in the memory of the mind made flesh in kitchen, bedroom and lounge, well acted all round and keenly directed by the late Terence Devaney, but I am glad there was no more than thirty minutes of it: beyond that and the need to know what on earth or out of it was really going on would have diminished the pleasure considerably.

Chess/Harry Golombek

Blues to win

The first Oxford and Cambridge university chess match was played at the City of London Chess Club on March 28, 1873. A picture in my *Encyclopaedia of Chess* shows a scene of gold-plated splendour, with masses of top-hatted spectators and even one player wearing a top hat.

Each team comprised seven players. This formula remained until the age of female liberation. Each team was then allowed one woman player, with her result counting only in the event of a tie. This year the female contest became fully valid.

This year's match was the hundredth of the series — the hundredth, that is, excluding the matches in the war years, 1940, '41 and '42, which were deemed unofficial.

The event is rightly regarded as of national interest since it has produced a crop of British champions and masters. On the whole Cambridge have had the upper hand, winning 45 matches against Oxford 37, with 17 draws. The hundredth match was played on March 13 at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, London, and was again financially sponsored by Lloyd's Bank. Oxford won last year and its team was rightly regarded as favourites this time, headed as it was by two such fine players as the American international, Ken Regan, and our own William Watson, who brilliantly beat the Romanian grandmaster Gheorghiu in the Lloyds Bank Masters tournament in 1980. With Regan winning in secure style on top board, and John Cox beating Stuart Nimman on fifth board in a fine game that won him the best game prize for Oxford, there was little doubt that Oxford would repeat last year's victory. Cambridge, however, put up a stern resistance, the Cambridge bottom board, Penelope Coxon, winning competently and being awarded the prize for the best Cambridge game.

The final score was Oxford 5, Cambridge 3. Here is how it was made up (Oxford names first): K. Regan (Beat Watson (Downing) 0; W. Watson (Merton) 1/2; I. Ivell (Magdalen) 1/2; D. Cummings (Keble) 1; A. Bear (Downing) (Clare) 0; T. Upton (Queen's) 1/2; P. Taylor (Trinity) 1/2; J. Cox (Corpus Christi) 1/2; N. Nimman (Trinity) 0; E. Tichman (Magdalen) 1/2; G. Anthony (Trinity Hall) 1/2; J. Hawksworth (Jesus) 1/2; C. Frostick (Trinity) 1/2; M. Eagle 0; Penelope Coxon (Newham) 1.

The game on first board was a good example of how to treat the Modern Defence, so called no doubt because it was used by Judge Meek against Paul Morphy more than 100 years ago. Quite a lot of literature has been produced about this defence

in recent years and I thought I would see how Townsend's "book" was regarded by the "book". From the early works by Ray Keene and George Botterill, published in 1972 and 1973, I gained little except the knowledge of how "to inculcate paradigms", a practice which must be useful in wet weather.

John Nunn in *The Pirc for the tournament player* (Batsford), was better and did consider the line for the first four moves. The *Encyclopaedia of chess openings*, volume B, also published by Batsford, contained nothing more than Nunn's work.

Two books I have only recently seen: the title of Jon Speelman's *Pocket Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings* (Bell & Hyman, £3.50) is belied by its sketchy nature and purpose. More helpful is *The Modern Defence* by Vlastimil Hort (RHM Press, then Pitman and finally A. & C. Black, £4.50). This gives a whole section to the line together with 17 illustrative games and is probably the best work so far on the subject.

White: K. Regan (Oxford). Black: P. Townsend (Cambridge). Modern Defence.

1 P-K4 B-N2
2 P-Q4 B-N2
3 N-B3 P-Q3
4 B-Q4 N-B3
5 N-B2 N-B3
6 P-B3 P-Q3
7 P-Q4 0-0

Better was the immediate central thrust of 7...P-K4. 8 B-N4

Now 8...P-K4 would not be good on account of 9.N-Q5. 10 B-E2 P-B4
11 B-B6 P-B4
12 B-B6 P-B4
13 P-B6 P-B4
14 P-B6 P-B4

His only chance of survival here lay in 19...P-B4. 20 P-Q4 R-K4
21 P-B5 P-K3

This, by weakening his OP, allows White to occupy the Q file. 22 N-N3 R-NP
This opening up of his Kingside soon proves fatal; however, at this stage in the game any move is bad.

23 N-N3 P-N3
24 Q-P4 P-N3
25 Q-N3 P-N3
26 Q-N3 P-N3
27 Q-N3 P-N3
28 Q-N3 P-N3
29 Q-N3 P-N3
30 Q-N3 P-N3
31 Q-N3 P-N3
32 Q-N3 P-N3
33 Q-N3 P-N3
34 Q-N3 P-N3
35 Q-N3 P-N3
36 Q-N3 P-N3
37 Q-N3 P-N3
38 Q-N3 P-N3
39 Q-N3 P-N3
40 Q-N3 P-N3
41 Q-N3 P-N3
42 Q-N3 P-N3
43 Q-N3 P-N3
44 Q-N3 P-N3
45 Q-N3 P-N3
46 Q-N3 P-N3
47 Q-N3 P-N3
48 Q-N3 P-N3
49 Q-N3 P-N3
50 Q-N3 P-N3

On my next hand, imagine that you as North have been lucky enough to cut one of the World's most skilful dummy players.

West lead the ♠. After considerable reflection, declarer plays dummy's ♠A and discards a spade on dummy's ♠Q. He continues with the ♠J which is covered by East with the ♠K. Having caught a glimpse of the opponents' hands you see that with the ♠ established for a second spade discard, either the finesse of the ♠ or the trump finesse would suffice to ensure 12 tricks. Declarer cashes with the ♠A and to your horror, continues with a club to dummy's ♠K, cashes the ♠J, discarding his last spade, and ruffs dummy's last heart before exiting with a trump. Unlucky!

This hand is a good illustration of the expert's inherent, sometimes paranoic, dislike of the finesse. There is much to be said for the initial rejection of the spade finesse, and the play of the ♠A was eminently correct. But to prefer the end play to the club finesse was distinctly against the odds. The end play requires the sacrifice hand to hold three specific cards, which is 7/1 against, compared with the even money chance of the club finesse.

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Double No No No

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Theatre/Irving Wardle

Real agony

Philoctetes

Royal Exchange, Manchester

Sophocles's *Philoctetes*, the outcast champion of the Trojan expedition, is the Romantic Agony's patron saint, invoked alike on behalf of tubercular Victorian poets and the disease-obsessed Thomas Mann and Auden, who even apostrophised his gift as "dear wound". There has been no major English revival of the play since the National Theatre's version in the late 1960s and the first thing to be said of Michael Elliott's production (amazingly, his debut as a director of the Greek is that it wholly confirms the 85-year-old Sophocles's claims as a realist. Even without the gull cries and murmuring swell of the Aegean, Christopher Stace's text uncompromisingly dumps you in the stony desolation of Lemnos, the island of the hero's exile, complete with the hero's feverish bandages. And the struggle to regain Philoctetes's invincible bow combines moral and psychological insight together with the highest fulfilment of the oracle.

The plot shows him as a veiled, a castaway sworn against to "help" the Greeks, and successfully resisting Odysseus's plots and

Neoptolemus's generous sympathy until divine intervention finally puts him on course for Troy. There are thus two changes of heart; and the play belongs to the conscience-torn Neoptolemus no less than to its title figure. It also carries uncanny echoes of *The Tempest*, another drama of a marooned victim, equipped with magical powers and at last reconciled with his returning enemies. Even Philoctetes's farewells to the "creaks and promontories" of Lemnos carry the regrets of Prospero. Not to mention the visually enchanted passages where the bow passes from hand to hand.

All that acknowledged, the production has not found a key to the work. Excessive reverence, I believe, is Mr Elliott's directorial weakness. He has approached the text as an Olympian masterpiece, built an altar to it in the form of elaborate atmospherics (including a fine score by Gordon Crosse) and waited for the god to descend. What actually happens when the smoke clears is that some rather good naturalistic acting takes over on Laurie Dament's plastic rocks.

Of the three principals Robert Lindsay brings a bold, clear line to Neoptolemus, and James Maxwell a plaintive, strained defiance to Philoctetes, who comes over as an ancestor of Ben Gunn.

Radio/David Wade

Hod man out

Twenty years ago on radio the question *Who Was Charleston Jimmy?* (Radio 4, March 14) would have been answered with a radio ballad, but the time and the money and the people who might make such things do not seem to be there — and even if they were I wonder if the argument is quite real to anyone that radio is actually the poorer for the omission from its repertoire. However, let that not detract from the praise due to what by any good documentary standards was a really outstanding programme. Its producer, Alec Reid, has served up some interesting things (for example, his Burns programme, *Eden Comes from Crystal*) but this, I think, was quite his best so far: not only had he resisted the temptation to record parts of it against a background of traffic and other heavy local colour, but his cooperation with the writer and presenter, Ian Hawkins, gave us some excellent material both as to form and content.

Charleston Jimmy's real name was Alexander Stanley Wilson, a fact which, to Radio Times readers, at first concealed his appearance in the programme. He was a bricklayer, and not just your ordinary bricklayer, but a legend among his contemporaries, a sublime master of his craft, who could lay more than 3,000 bricks a day. It was said of him that he would set to work in his suit and his dancing shoes and at the end of the day, with both still immaculate, he'd be off to take part in a Charleston competition.

But surely, said those contemporaries whom we heard at the beginning, Charleston Jimmy must be dead, gone to meet the Great Bricklayer in the Sky (and on more or less equal terms, you might imagine, for he was well before the end, there he was in person, run to earth by Hawkins and describing how he did it. Much lay in

even returning for the funeral. We always were a tight-knit family, remarked Jimmy grimly. Yes, replied mother, we were very close. Not close, Jimmy insisted, with a bleak and effortless lack of understanding. The point of the play was how the tight-knit family was kept up in practice, which in mother's case meant literally summoning Father back to life. Jimmy crept down in the middle of the night and found them bickering happily together about the kettle and mother's imminent death: there were papers for Jimmy to sign.

"Are you really here?" asked Jimmy. "What an unhelpful question," replied Father without answering it. Oh well, alright. A ghost story, then, about familial disingenuousness and pictures in the memory of the mind made flesh in kitchen, bedroom and lounge, well acted all round and keenly directed by the late Terence Devaney, but I am glad there was no more than thirty minutes of it: beyond that and the need to know what on earth or out of it was really going on would have diminished the pleasure considerably.

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Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Knaveish card

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Travel: edited by Shona Crawford Poole

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High summer in Crete Beware the wicked month of August

At 10 in the morning it was 90 in the shade and the shrill of cicadas was like walking under the power lines of the national grid. There was a shimmering Cretan traffic snarl up at the gates of Knossos and a queue to get in. Guides touted 150 drachma tours, sorting the tourists into national groups at 50 practised paces.

A stocky lady guide corralled 10 English speakers. Her command of our tongue was, to be kind, limited. Though whether it was the lady herself or the language which condemned the party to its inferior status was a puzzle I could not solve in the competitive press of groups with louder guides.

What with the heat and through it was hard going to focus on Minoan civilization. August was clearly not an ideal month to visit the largest and most southerly of the Greek islands.

The museum of the bustling seaport capital Heraklion houses art treasures from the nearby Knossos excavations, and both are likely to be compulsory pilgrimages for most visitors to Crete. But the big city and its string of seaside suburbs are not the most appealing base for a high summer holiday.

Aghios Nikolaos, is nearer what many people have in mind when they dream of Greek islands. Busting tavernas line the quays. Fishing boats bob photogenically on turquoise water and small boys dive dramatically from cliffs round the harbour in a whooping day-long cabaret.

It is also possible to enjoy the natural splendours of Crete in a cocoon of unnaturally exclusive luxury. For as well as small towns and villages like Aghios Nikolaos and Kania, which have prospered on tourist spending, there are plush new developments like the Elounda Beach Hotel.

More a self-contained resort than an hotel, Elounda Beach pampers its guests shamelessly. Pretty stone houses art treasures from the nearby Knossos excavations, and both are likely to be compulsory pilgrimages for most visitors to Crete. But the big city and its string of seaside suburbs are not the most appealing base for a high summer holiday.

For those who like local colour in measured doses there is a taverna in the grounds. The piano player's repertoire, like the menu, is international. And, of course, there is a disco, plush, pulsating, and sensibly positioned by the security gate on the far side of the car park.

If our modest hire car looked very small beside the big saloons lined up in the car park at Elounda, it seemed quite at home in the narrow streets of Aghia Galini on the less developed southern coast of Crete.

On the drive south the narrow road through parched mountain landscapes opens startlingly on to the green Lassithi Plateau. Rugged windmills stand guard on the watershed pass. Tattered sails thrack in the breeze and there are more windmills as far as the eye can see.

Embroidered linen and crocheted work, hand made by local womenfolk, and sometimes whole families, hangs from almost every house in Tzermiado.

We asked a young woman sewing at the door of her shop if we might photograph one of the old ladies in black with her display of white tablecloths and bedspreads. She smiled at the courtesy, but brought her mother to pose for the camera. The nearby ancient were not relatives, she explained.

I would have liked to linger in Tzermiado, but Aghia Galini called. An unspoiled fishing village is a description of it still found in guidebooks. I wonder if the authors have been there lately. Haphazard new buildings look pretty enough from the harbour. But the view from hotel balconies is a less attractive vista of washing and water tanks.

Sun, sea and reasonable prices attract throngs of young holidaymakers who pack the cramped stony beaches. Tavernas throb with pop music far into the night and the atmosphere is distinctly predatory.

Too many holidaymakers in any one place distort the local atmosphere they have travelled so far to experience. Plainly a great many people were hugely enjoying Crete in August, but I would like to return in spring.

Olympic Holidays offers a wide selection of holidays on Crete with direct flights to Iraklion. Self-catering apartments holidays based in Aghios Nikolaos cost from £187 for two weeks in low season.

A double bungalow on the waterfront at the Elounda Beach Hotel, half board in the high season (May to October 31), costs about £55 a day.

Surcharges/Derek Harris
Long haul hikes

The good news about fuel surcharges on package holidays is that on short-haul holidays, for example to the Mediterranean, these late additions to the bill should be nil on the main summer brochure deals.

Surcharges are a persistent source of annoyance to travellers. The bad news is that in the wake of the Laker collapse, transatlantic carriers are trying to fight their way out of trading losses. So many long-haul holidays to North America, the Caribbean and elsewhere are likely to be hit by the full 10 per cent surcharge ceilings.

However imposed, variations in airport charges, from handling fees to paying for the security checks, vary, often at short notice, and so have an impact on surcharges. But this season the other main effect on surcharges will come from currency changes.

Currency surcharges on Spanish holidays should be at most 1.3 per cent of the holiday cost - not much over £3 on a typical fortnight's holiday for one - but could also be lower, according to Thomson Holidays. It is likely to be about the same

for Italian holidays, but lower, on for instance, North African and Malta Breaks.

Currency surcharging arises because prices in this summer's brochures were calculated in July last year, and based on estimates of how currencies will vary in value in relationship to each other. There is, for instance, a currency factor in this summer's United States, Caribbean and Mexican holidays of increases of between 2.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent.

But this pales beside the effect of the airlines raising their prices. The package tour industry tends to discuss this in terms of a fuel surcharge. This has had to do with it this time round but the post-Laker situation does have to be faced.

It affects all holiday operators using scheduled airlines as carriers. Ostensibly a Miami holiday could be facing a 46 per cent surcharge, a Los Angeles holiday 18.3 per cent, and in Honolulu - the lowest increase - an 11.03 per cent surcharge.

These figures are from Thomson Holidays which guarantees no more than a 10 per cent surcharge on brochure prices. In theory the package operator with such a guarantee foots the bill for the difference.

In fact it would be surprising if Thomson and other key operators have not been able to negotiate airline arrangements to reduce such a liability. Thomas Cook, like some other operators, if gives customers the chance to opt out with a money back deal if surcharges go over 10 per cent. Thomas Cook which, like Thomson, had been using Laker as a carrier to some destinations, has renegotiated deals with airlines and expects to keep almost all the surcharges within the 10 per cent. What such companies always have to take into account is consequential losses if, when the surcharge goes over 10 per cent are so many cancellations that booked facilities like coaches also have to be cancelled.

With the trend strengthening towards late booking for many holidays it looks like if early booking this season has had its virtues where, as with big transatlantic operators like Jetset, there is a no-surcharge guarantee if holidays are paid in advance.

Holiday discount news

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Departures
SKIING					
St Lary, France	7 s/c	Thomson	£64	£30	Mar 27, 5 Luton
Formigal, Spain	7 s/c	Thomson	£73	£30	Mar 27 Luton
Saarnid, Austria	7/14 h/b	Swans	£134/219	£50	Apr 4, 11
Caspoglio, Italy	7/14 h/b	Swans	£84/136	£50	Mar 27, 5 Manchester
Santa Caterina, Italy	7/14 h/b	Swans	£106/164	£50	Mar 27, 5 Manchester
Zermatt, Switzerland	7 s/c	Ski West	£110	£45	Mar 27
Courmayeur, Italy	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£104/210	£50/85	Mar 27
Verbier, Switzerland	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£129	£78	Mar 27
Courchevel, France	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£169/209	£70/130	Apr 3
La Plagne, France	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£129/163	£20/40	Apr 10
Val d'Isere, France	7/14 h/b	Club Mark Warner	£189/297	£50	Mar 27 & Apr 3
Meribel, France	7/14 h/b	Club Mark Warner	£195/299	£50	Mar 27 & Apr 3
Val d'Isere	7/14 h/b	Ski MacG	£209	£29/39	Mar 27
Verbier	7/14 h/b	Ski MacG	£209	£29/39	Mar 27
Verbier	7/14 h/b	Ski Sunburst	£135/205	£41/57	Apr 3
Meribel	7/14 h/b	Ski Sunburst	£140/210	£34/44	Apr 3
St Anton, Austria	14/14	Small World	£209	£30	Mar 28
Pontresina, Switzerland	14/14	Small World	£199	£50	Apr 4
WINTER SUN					
Biza	7/14 s/c	Silver	£99	£44	May 2, 9, 16 & 23
Les Palmes	7/14 s/c	Silver	£129	£52	May 3, 10, 17 & 24
Yugoslavia	14/14	Portland*	£149	£50	Apr 6
Costa Brava	14/14	Portland	£129	£50	Apr 6
Greece	7/14 h/b	Thomson	£169	£20	Apr 14 21 Newcastle
Gambia	14 h/b	Thomson	£350	£88	Apr 1, 8, 15, Luton
Maldives	7/14 h/b	Thomson	£125	£30	Apr 16, 18, 23, Luton
Madagascar	14 h/b	Ellerman	£298	£58	Mar 24, 31, Glasgow
Peloponnese, Greece	7/14 s/c	Timeway	£121/142	£33	Apr 18 23 30 & May 7

*Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. *May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 5111 or 061-228 1188. Small World 01-240 3233.

Horizon announced an extension of its no-surcharge guarantee on summer holidays this week. There will be no surcharges on Horizon holidays with departures on or between March 26 and June 30.

In addition to the winter sports discounts mentioned in this week's table, Neilson is reducing prices on selected holidays by up to £50. The holiday maker chooses the board arrangement, departure date and airport, and the tour operator allocates the resort and accommodation. S.C.P.

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Shoparound with Beryl Downing

When adrift, just build an ark

If you found yourself in Cornwall, unemployed and with nothing more than the clothes you stood up in, what would you do? When David Plagerson faced that problem five years ago his survival instinct took a fairly well-documented turn — he promptly set about building an ark.

It was not the full-size sort that in times of flood might get stuck on Porlock Hill, but a hand-carved wood model, complete with Mr and Mrs Nosh and 36 pairs of animals. Since then the Plagerson arks have become so collectable that 60 per cent of his output is exported to America, and examples have been bought by the Bethnal Green toy museum and by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

Now new hand-made toys are being added to the range. There is a nativity set of crib, stable and 10 characters and a model village of 25 painted, hinged fields and roads which can be laid out in many permutations. It is based on the Cornish landscape and has six typical buildings, including a farm, pub and church.

My pick of the painted toys would be the circus. The round box forms twin rings, one fixed with a high wire, and there are two acrobats, a ringmaster, clown, two lions, an elephant, seal, horse and two poodles.

Handwork of this quality, each piece is beautifully modelled and painted — cannot be cheap. The painted ark takes a week to complete and costs from £220 to £375 according to the number of animals. The village is £89, nativity set £112, circus £127. There is also an amusing mechanical cat and mouse — the cat

sitting on top of a carpeted box and the mouse popping out of whichever hole the cat has turned from, £37.

However, if your price range for toys is somewhat lower, several of the animals are such satisfying shapes that they don't need paint and David Plagerson is making a mixed wood set in pine, mahogany, elm and beech, choosing the shapes that show off the grains to the best advantage.

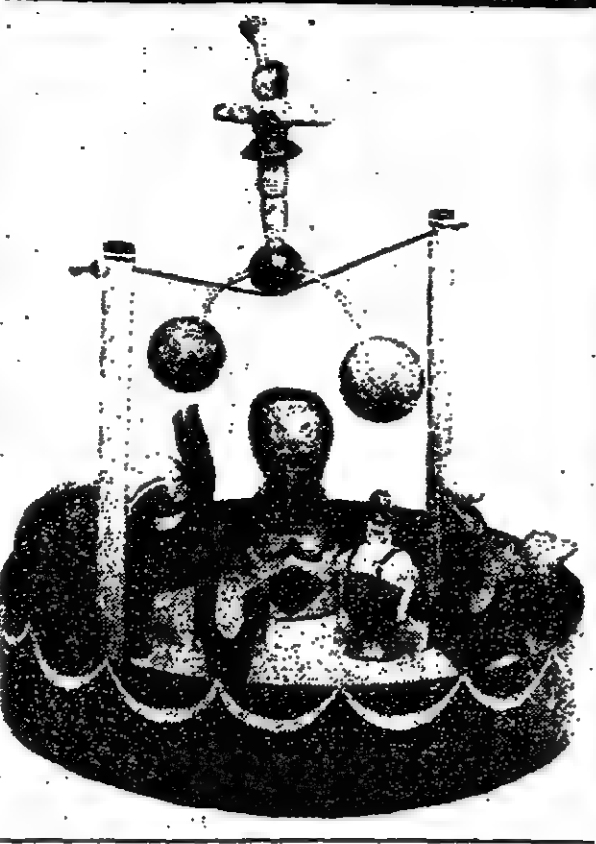
I found these just as pleasing as the painted versions. Their smooth contours are good to touch, the wood smells delicious and the various colours of wood are a delight. They are eminently collectable at £2.25 each. An unpainted ark is £37.

Don't worry that because they are unpainted they will spoil by being handled by sticky little fingers — after a fortnight or so they do look grubby, but after a couple of months they acquire an all-over patina which only adds to their effect. You could polish them with beeswax, but varnish destroys their natural look.

David Plagerson's painted arks are available from the General Trading Company in London, but the prices quoted are those direct from him at 5 Cliff View Terrace, Gannisslake, Cornwall. He will also design toys to commission, so if you have any ideas you would like to discuss, telephone 0622 833035.

Top: hand carved unpainted Noah's ark animals from a large selection at £2.25 each. By David Plagerson.

Right: hand carved and painted circus by David Plagerson, £127 (not all pieces shown).



The loose smock shape has already been made a right royal fashion for mothers to be, but it is a comfortable style in hot weather for anyone. Julian Akers Douglas makes attractive traditional smocks in natural calico with cream or stone brown smocking in all sizes from children's, aged 4 to 6 to £25 to adults; small, medium and large at £25 (£22 p&p on all sizes). She will also make special sizes to order — her largest was for a man with a 48in chest and took three weeks to complete the smocking. Short, thigh lengths also available from Barham Farmhouse, East Hoathly, Lewes, Sussex, telephone Holland 397.

Prints for pleasure

Collectors of prints who joined the Limited Edition Club when I reported its formation last September are finding their membership is paying dividends. The list of items for sale now includes some famous name prints at prices much lower than their current market value.

The club was formed to provide an outlet for those who had difficulty in selling their limited editions at a reasonable price. For a £12 fee, members receive regular For Sale and Wanted lists and are able to advertise in them without further charge.

The current list offers Helen Bradley's Picnic at £100 and Russell Flint's Waves at £175. The same editions were in a highly regarded print retailer's current list at £525 and £650. The club organizers do not pretend that such bargains crop up all the time, but if you want to have the opportunity to exercise your keen eye, write for a membership form to Limited Edition Club, PO Box 17, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 4EW.

Giant step for women

It is patently clear that Longfellow had short feet. He would certainly not have gone on about leaving footprints on the sand of time if he had been gawking about in size 12 wellies. People — particularly women — with big feet cover their tracks whenever possible, having been made to feel bizarre since childhood and to pay over the odds for barge-shaped boots since they grew up.

Hence the success of Crispins, which opened at 5 Chiltern Street, London W1, in 1978, branched out to Manchester in 1980 and is planning to expand to larger premises in London this spring, all specializing in beautiful shoes in long fittings. Note the "long" — it sounds so much more elegant than "big" — all part of the service provided by Dawne Gutteridge who, as a wearer of size 9, knows how sensitive people can be about their feet.

"I've had customers in tears about shoes," she says. "They have been sent to the men's department and looked on as some kind of freak just because they aren't average fittings. I know how desperate they feel. When I first started I went to Italy looking for sizes 4½ and 42 — an English 8½ and 9. They thought I had translated the numbers incorrectly, fell about laughing and offered to sell me the boxes to wear!"

It was not easy to convince manufacturers that large sizes, up to 11, could be made in the sort of styles that look stylish on small feet. Dawne Gutteridge, having been a designer of children's clothes, admits that if she had known more about the shoe trade she might have allowed herself to be persuaded that what she wanted was impossible.

But she persevered and she now has manufacturers in Italy, Spain, Finland, France and

America making specially for her. There are a few English styles and she would like to buy more, but makers here have not been particularly co-operative, despite the fact that she is now experienced enough to know at a glance whether a sample size 4 will translate successfully into 8 or 9 without looking like a boat. Her ranges are from sizes 7 to 11 and include four fittings, AAA

to C, and although not all fittings are available in all sizes, there is a large selection of styles. Even Americans, who have a good range of large sizes and fittings, are finding that Crispins has a better design selection than they can find at home.

Prices are in the middle to upper categories — £20 to £50 in the fashion ranges, which include mostly lowish but elegantly

shaped heels for tall women, but also some high-heeled styles, all in fine calf, kid, suede or patent. There is also a Mini Prix range for young customers — £14 to £30 for sandals, espadrilles and some court shoes. Not, yet, shoes for men.

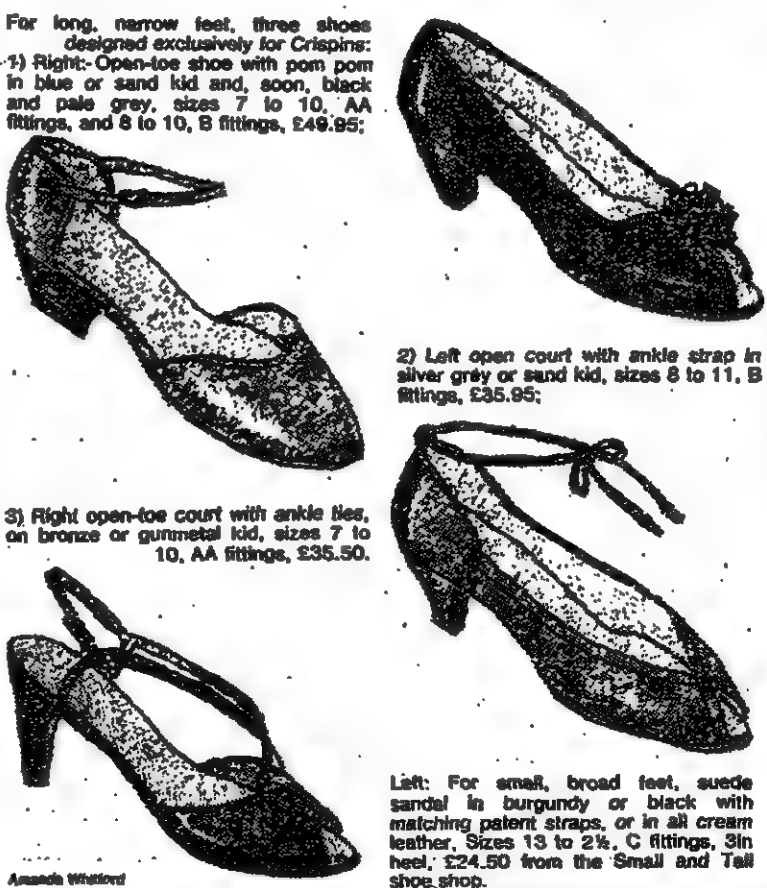
To complete the picture Crispins stocks a selection of extra-long tights, over the knee socks at £2.25 in lots and colours and extra-length kid gloves at about £14. Handbags are available to match the shoes from £30.

Another shop specializing in unusual sizes, at both ends of the scale, is the Small and Tall shoe shop, 71 York Street, W1, where tall girls can find sizes 6½ to 11 in fittings AAA to D from £13.50 to £37.95 and small ones have a choice of sizes 13 to 2½, fittings B to E from £18.95 to £36.50. Again not all styles are available in all fittings.

Most of these are British-made in leather with resin soles and some styles can be made in special colours to order at an extra cost of £3 a pair. Delivery is three to four weeks.

Small and Tall offer the unusual service of supplying shoes by mail order. (Telephone 01-723 5321.) They have a brochure for each size range and shoes are sent on approval and may be changed until the exact size and fitting suits the customer. No extra p & p is charged, but a service charge is made on goods returned: £1 on shoes, £1.50 on boots and £5p on sandals.

So whether awkward-to-fit customers visit Crispins in Chiltern Street or Royal Exchange, Manchester, or buy personally or by mail through Small and Tall, at least they will not need to commit the unadmirable crime of referring to their aching feet. As a suave character said in a play I saw years ago, "To say 'my foot hurts' is intriguing. To say 'my feet hurt' is simply sordid."



First-time functional

For the last five years or so, Habitat customers have been getting younger. The first faithful of the late 1960s have grown up and the new young makers cannot find what they want at prices they can afford. So Habitat this week launched Basics.

This is a collection of all the essentials in a first home and the emphasis is very much on pared-down prices achieved by combining for the first time the buying power of Habitat's 33 British stores with their 15 French ones.

Designers, instead of concentrating on specialized items such as china or linen, have been commissioned to create ideas across a whole range of goods, all bearing the Basics identity and costing no more than basic prices.

The result is a range of furniture, fabrics, lighting, wallpaper, tableware and bedding which should be affordable even by first-time flat sharers. It will be shown in Habitat stores from next Saturday and will be promoted for two months as a

collection. After that, items will be dispersed to their appropriate departments, but will still bear a distinctive Basics red, white and blue label so that they will be easy for bargain-hunters to spot.

There will be sofa beds at £199, occasional chairs with tubular frames and padded canvas covers at £25, ceramic table lamps with shades at £7.95, kitchen units from £22.50 for a single wall unit, striped enameled steel pans from £3.95, wine glasses 99p each, white porcelain dinner plates at £1.25 each and smart white handled cutlery at £5.99 for a seven-piece table setting.

Fabric wallpaper and blinds are in fresh, bright colours — blue, red, green and a smiling, daffodil yellow — and there are some lightweight, machine washable duvets in blue and yellow which need no extra covers, £21.95 single.

Fabrics are guaranteed for five months and a coloured leaflet will be available free from Habitat stores from next Saturday or can be obtained by post from Habitat Designs Ltd, Box 2, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9DQ, enclosing a s.a.e.

Gardening/Roy Hay

Biting back at the frost

Hardly a garden has escaped some damage by the severe frosts, but it is far too soon to assume that plants which look beyond all hope of survival are actually dead. Wait until June, at the earliest, before removing trees and shrubs and other plants. They may well have survived.

This winter has not really been comparable with that of 1962-63. I fear it has caused more severe and fatal damage because although the frosts arrived earlier, in November, the really severe frosts did not come until early in 1963, by which time there was deep snow cover.

Last year the frosts in December and January were unprecedentedly vicious and there was limited snow cover; we had 72 hours of near zero Fahrenheit temperatures. In 1962 the plants had longer to harden their growth and

were better able to survive the very low temperatures. We wait and hope.

Something I did not know is that some types of bulbs are more susceptible to prolonged and severe frosts than others. Hyacinths are easily ruined, tulips and daffodils much less so as a rule, and of course hardly ever in the open ground; only in exceptionally severe winters or if they have not been planted deeply enough.

I had not come across this problem before, but last autumn, as we have done for years, we planted bulbs in about a dozen containers; stone vases, tubs and the like. The hyacinth and the daffodil bulbs were just reduced to slimy pulp but the tulips and muscari seem to have survived unscathed. Naturally, bulbs perched above ground in tubs or other containers are more vulnerable to frost than those in the open ground. Frosts have to be more severe and last much longer to affect bulbs in beds or borders.

We have a splendidly handsome specimen of the evergreen *Eucryphia nymansensis* about 12 feet high which last year was covered with its white flowers. It looks very dead, its leaves like brown paper. If it is dead, we thought, maybe it would make a wonderful support for, but our scientific friends are violently opposed to the retention and such use of dead trees. They can apparently be hosts to honey fungus, coral spot, silver leaf and goodness

knows what other diseases, as well as providing a refuge for overwintering pests. So if it is dead it will have to go, as will a camellia that has lost all its leaves and a 10ft bay tree which is as brown as a berry.

Many herbaceous plants, mainly young ones raised from seed, or plants divided and planted in the autumn, I fear may have been lost. Rather than rush to replace them now, before we can be really sure that they are dead, it may be worthwhile raising a few batches of half hardy annuals, or sowing some hardy annuals.

As I reported in 1980, Unwins offered for the first time their First Early onion sets for planting in the autumn. This is an early maturing onion, giving a high yield and ready to harvest much earlier than onions raised from seed or from spring planted onion sets. We planted a batch last autumn and feared greatly for them when the December frosts set in but they have survived apparently without turning a hair. Unwins tell us that similar reports about the hardness of these sets have been received from many parts of the country and they will replace the Japanese onion seed varieties which we have sown in the autumn for an early crop.

They certainly will for me: 20 years ago I gave up growing onions from seed sown in spring in favour of onion sets planted in March or early April.

The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

Red, or pink alert

To specify an odd or unusual ingredient in any recipe which appears in a newspaper is to invite letters from frustrated readers. These lament the unavailability of plain as well as fancy foodstuffs in sometimes surprising places and ask for advice on suitable alternatives. So it may come as a relief that there is one fashionable spice which it now seems it would be wise to shun.

Red peppercorns, also called pink peppercorns, are described as a "symbolic spice of nouvelle cuisine" in the latest edition of the journal *Petits Propos Culinaires*. It reports that the US Food and Drug Administration has suspended imports of red peppercorns following tests which confirmed health risks revealed by researchers.

In an article entitled "Red peppercorns — what they really are", Mrs Alexandra Hicks asks how a spice can become so popular "and cause such excitement among gourmets and still remain not properly identified". Red peppercorns she says are the berries of the shrub *Schinus molle* (also known as *Schinus terebinthifolius*) a species indigenous to Brazil where it is known as *Aroeira*. Other common names for it are Brazilian pepper tree, Christmas berry and Florida holly.

Oddly, though this same shrub is common enough in Florida to be rated a pest, the red peppercorns used by American and European cooks come, we are told, from the French island of

Reunion in the Indian Ocean. The harvested Reunion berries are sent to France where they are processed by freeze drying, or packing in brine, vinegar or oil.

But it was the experiences of Florida gardeners who commonly developed rashes, facial swellings and even running sores after contact with the shrub that alerted the authorities to the possible risks. Children who ate more than a few berries were sick, and birds eating too many appear drunk and are unable to fly.

To be fair to *Schinus terebinthifolius* it has a number of uses in the folk medicine of its native Brazil and in homeopathy. But for culinary purposes, it looks as if it may be safer for the present to stick to the true peppercorns of the vine species *Piper nigrum*.

Black, white and green peppercorns are all the berries of this plant which have been harvested at different stages of development and treated in slightly different ways. For black pepper the berries are picked before they are ripe and are dried in the sun. White peppercorns are fully ripened on the vine, then the husks are removed before they are dried. Green peppercorns are unripe berries with a milder flavour than either black or white pepper.

In Britain we find only the processed varieties sold in small tins or bottles. Though these are a good substitute for fresh green peppercorns, it is important to taste them before adding them to any

recipe because the strength of flavour can vary from pleasantly aromatic to tearfully hot.

Like their red or pink namesakes, green peppercorns too have been fashionable in recent years and make an attractive addition to the taste and appearance of many terrines.

The following recipe for a pork and green pepper terrine also includes the idea of baking the pâté with a split pig's trotter on top to make an instant aspic. If a trotter is hard to find, or the idea is unappealing, the terrine can be baked without it and aspic added later, or not at all. Very coarsely ground black or white pepper may be substituted for the green peppercorns, in which case the quantity should be reduced.

Pork and green peppercorn terrine
Makes about 1½ (2½ lb)
450g (1 lb) pig's liver
450g (1 lb) fat belly of pork
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
55g (2 oz) shallot or onion, finely chopped
½ teaspoon ground mace
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon whole green peppercorns
225g (8 oz) thinly sliced pork back fat or green streaky bacon
1 pig's trotter, split
1 medium onion, sliced
1 carrot, sliced

2 bay leaves
5 tablespoons brandy
5 tablespoons dry white wine

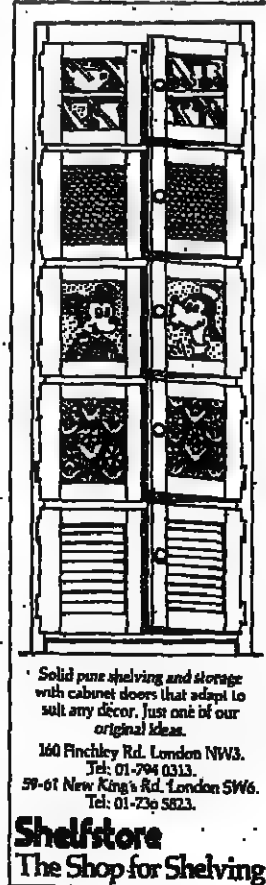
Chop the liver and pork very finely, or mince them coarsely. Combine the meats, garlic, shallot or onion, mace, salt, and whole green peppercorns and mix them well together. Fry a small quantity of the mixture to test its seasoning, remembering that this will be less pronounced when the terrine is served cold.

Use the back fat or bacon to line the base and sides of a terrine of about 1.25 litres (2½ pints) capacity.

Fill the terrine with the meat mixture. Place the split trotter, onion and carrot slices and bay leaves on top. Pour in the brandy and wine and, if necessary, just enough cold water to bring the liquid up to the level of the meat.

Cover the terrine closely with foil or a lid and bake it in the centre of a preheated oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for about three hours. Remove it from the oven and allow the terrine to cool a little. Discard the trotter and vegetables before the aspic sets. Cover the terrine and mature it in the refrigerator for two or three days before serving it at room temperature.

The texture of this pâté is fairly coarse and free. It may be weighted as it cools to solidify the texture further. *Published by Prospect Books, 45 Lamoni Road, London SW10 0HU. Issue 10 contains the report on red peppercorns.*



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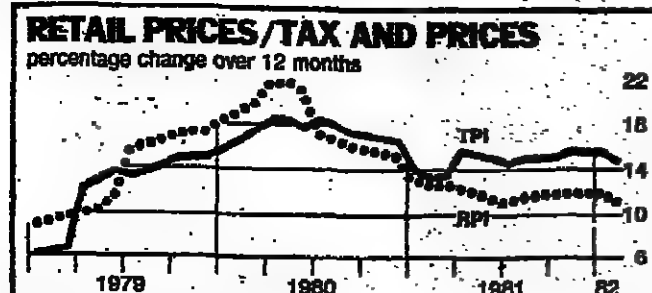
Oils firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. § Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 1.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Inflation rate slows



Britain's inflation rate fell to 11 per cent in February, half the peak rate of 22 per cent recorded in the spring of 1980. The Retail Price Index did not change in February, the first time there has been no increase for 12 months. The Tax and Prices Index went up by less than 0.1 per cent to stand at 14.1 per cent above its level a year earlier.

Beckett forecasts upturn

The recent rise in Britain's exports and the effects of falling world oil prices will lead to a "light lift off" in the economy in the second half of this year, says Sir Terence Beckett, the Confederation of British Industry Director General, forecast in Belfast yesterday. In his first speech since the Budget, he said the Chancellor could have afforded to cut two percentage points off the national insurance surcharge without facing an excessive borrowing requirement.

Fleming finds a formula

Robert Fleming Investment Management seems to have achieved a reorganization of its investment trusts acceptable to its main shareholders. The new plans include unitization of three of the 13 trusts — to comply with institutional shareholders' preference for a reduction in the number of trusts. A leading critic of the early plans, Mr Ian Henderson, a director of London and Manchester Assurance, which increased its stake in Fleming's United States and General Trust to block the changes, said: "I have made my peace with the Fleming's people. We have had full discussions before the announcement of the latest plans."

BP increases spot buying

BP is currently gearing up its oil buying on the spot market — at present to 25 per cent of its needs — in an attempt to cut trading losses, particularly on petrol sales. But to get a reasonable return on even this cheapest source of supply, petrol prices at the pump should be near or at 160p, Mr Ian Walker, BP executive and managing director of BP Oil, said in London yesterday.

Rolls Royce Motors is cutting its workforce at Caversham by 300 with a voluntary redundancy scheme. Two hundred redundancies will take place immediately and the rest by the end of the year. Plans to increase production have been postponed.

Euroflame UK fails

The United Kingdom subsidiary of Euroflame Holdings, the log burning group, is to go into voluntary liquidation. Euroflame can no longer continue to trade, the directors of the parent company said last night. They emphasized that the other trading subsidiaries would continue. The £300,000 plan to be arranged by Tring Hall Securities will now be used for the remaining subsidiaries.

Forty-six people will lose their jobs after a decision by Rugby Portland Cement to consider production on part of its Rugby works at the end of July.

MARKET SUMMARY

New gilt fixed at £97.50

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 502.7 rose 5.9
FT Gilt 98.45 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.16 up 3.92
Bulgaria 18.408

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 7,065.38, up 12.58.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index
1,207.21, up 18.92.

COMMODITIES

Cocoa and tin producers took steps yesterday to support their flagging markets. The International Cocoa Organization agreed to borrow \$75m from a group of Brazilian banks and a Saudi Arabian bank. The loan will be financed by an increase in the levy from one cent to two cents a pound from October 1. Tin producers are likely to be called upon to cut their exports by 10 per cent in the markets cocoa fell to its lowest for nine months.

March cocoa was 22s lower at 32s and tin, while May fell by 3s to 21.03s. Dealers felt that the combination of higher West African and Brazilian crops and a buffer stock managers' ability to remove only another 35,000 tonnes from the market was a risk.

Oil prices were helped by the latest set of Retail Prices Index figures, and closed with gains of 4s, after 4s, while shorts closed virtually unchanged.

Equities advanced because of the continuing bear squeeze with electricals, stores and lenders all feeling the pinch. The FT Index finished slightly below the best of the day, nervously awaiting the next set of United States money figures, closing 5.9 up at 502.7.

Oil staged a long awaited rally on hopes that the Opec ministers' meeting in Vienna would agree to cut production to preserve the present price of \$34 a barrel.

Among the leaders, rose 5p to 285p, Shell 6p to 352 and Lanes 15 to 27p. Second liners featured the Humby Grove twins Carliss

Capel, up 13p to 149, and Casadeo, 16p dearer at 170p. Observers believe the groups should benefit from the latest rise in the naphtha price and an upgrading of production target levels for Humby Grove.

In electricals, the bear squeeze helped Royal, to gain 15p to 385p, Cable & Wireless, rose 8p to 250p and Plessey, added 8p to 385p. Brokers James Capel are recommending Standard Telephone & Cables, up 8p to 53s, after highlighting the potential for its optical fibres interests.

Huntley & Palmer, rose 2p to 52p despite the absence of a dawn raid by Nabisco, which is said to have considered the idea, but later abandoned it.

Details of European Ferries, latest move into the continental commercial property market produced several furies including the sale of a line of shares which failed to affect the price, 3p up at 82p. But a line of 400,000 Simon Engineering shares left the price 3p lighter at 37p.

Midland Bank received an unexpected boost from its full year figures, rising 13p to 346p. This in turn lifted the other majors with Barclays, 8p up at 458p, Lloyds, 8p better at 443p and National Westminster, 10p higher at 440p.

Robert H. Lowe, the textile group, jumped 5p to 59p after several shares changed hands. Gilt & Duffus rose 3p to 144p amid rumours that its Charlton and Fulton subsidiary was for sale.

Equity turnover on March 18 was £118.24m (15,958 bargains).

Michael Clark

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 13%
3-month interbank 13 1/4-13 1/2
Euro Currency Rates:
3 month dollar 13 1/4-15 1/4
3 month DM 9 1/4-9 3/4
3 month Fr.F. 23-24

Money Markets

Slow start for inflation proof stocks

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

The Government's move to extend the availability of inflation-proofed marketable stocks to all investors has got off to a slow start.

At yesterday's offer for sale by tender of £750m of 2 per cent index-linked Treasury stock, private investors gave a clear thumbs down, leaving much of the stock to be taken up by the Bank of England's own issue Department.

Although no minimum tender price was set when the new stock was first announced last week, the Bank decided to set a striking price of £97.50. Here the real return is about 2 1/2 per cent.

Investors who applied for stock at £97.50 or above will be allocated as much stock as they applied for, all at a price of £97.50.

The Bank set its price at £97.50 because this produced a yield roughly in line with those available on the three existing index-linked stocks. The Bank clearly expects that, in future, index-linked stocks would be available to all investors and not just pension funds.

While it could be argued that indexed stocks should provide protection against currency depreciation over the longer term, on the assumption that the inflation rate and the exchange rate are loosely linked, investors may well perceive that currency depreciation will lead to an upward bias in the inflation rate by many months. On that basis, they should not buy the stock.

Although overseas investors were reportedly nibbling at the existing stocks earlier in the week, many continued to be worried about the currency risk.

Franc stages a rally after early pressure

By Our Financial Staff

Most of the interest in foreign exchange markets continued to centre on the French franc yesterday. But after coming under further pressure early on the franc rallied as the dollar went on to close slightly firmer. Against the dollar it finished in European trading at Fr.620.

The dollar itself was generally firm ahead of the weekly United States money supply figures. In particular, it gained ground against sterling during the afternoon, leaving the pound 1.05 cents lower on the day at \$1.7995.

In money markets the Bank of France again kept a tight rein on short-term interest rates, maintaining its intervention level at 17 per cent. But periodic rates eased back slightly, both in the domestic and European markets.

In London money markets interest rates were little changed in spite of Thursday's downward moves in German, Swiss and Dutch interest rates. Although some United States money supply figures over the weekend would help sentiment, the general feeling appears to be that the authorities would be happier holding present rates than the current levels until well into April.

Takeover Panel censures Holmes a' Court

By Philip Robinson

The Takeover Panel has censured TVM Enterprises, headed by Mr Robert Holmes a' Court, for which TWV's parent company Bell Group was at that time bidding. 85p.

The shares purchased were made at prices above that being offered to shareholders and were not declared within 24 hours. The Takeover Code requires immediate disclosure of share buying during a takeover bid and that the bid price be revised to the top price paid for shares in the Stock Market.

The Panel's decision was made after six hours of talks spread over a day and a half. Mr Holmes a' Court, chief executive of ACC has two takeover bids on the table through TVM. It offers a top price of 110p a share for the entertainment and property empire.

Chase Manhattan is to raise the first public loan for Egypt since 1977. The \$200m credit which is under syndication, will be used to fund Egypt's mounting current account deficit.

The \$200m is a standby revolving credit with only two years maturity, although the Central Bank of Egypt, the official borrower, can extend the period for 12 months. A standby revolving credit makes funds available to the borrower on demand up to an agreed limit provided repayments are made.

The spread is 1/4 per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate for the first 18 months and 1/2 per cent after that. Brazil, Mexico and other developing countries

have recently paid higher interest rates on loans.

Chase, which is making this loan through its London merchant banking arm, Chase Manhattan Ltd, has cultivated close connections with Egypt since the mid-1970s when its then chairman, Mr David Rockefeller, enthusiastically endorsed the warring of the late President Anwar Sadat.

In 1975 Chase was the first bank to set up a joint venture bank in Egypt under Law 43, the "open door policy" by which President Sadat reversed the policy of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Then two years later Chase organized a \$250m private credit for the country.

Mr David Rockefeller



Taking a back seat with Sir Michael Edwards are (from left) Mr David Andrews, Mr Frank Fitzpatrick and Mr Ray Horrocks.

BL still on course despite £497m loss

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, Britain's state-controlled motor group, is set to reduce its trading losses by almost half this year and is firmly on target to break even by the end of next year.

That was the message of hope yesterday from Sir Michael Edwards, chairman, who said he was "more optimistic about the company's future today than at any time in the past four years."

Sir Michael was announcing BL's preliminary 1981 results which, as expected, reveal an overall loss for 1981 of £497m compared with a 1980 deficit of £535.5m.

The loss at the trading level (before tax and interest) was £244.6m, a reduction of £50m on the previous year, which was boosted partly by net interest charges

of £88.3m and a provision of £152m to cover restructuring and demanning.

Total sales were down by £8m to £2,869m and would have been lower but for a £139m increase in overseas sales to £1,385m. BL's direct exports rose by £4m to £384m.

The group, which received £520m of state equity cash last year, has been granted a further £420m for this year and has told the Government it will need an additional £150m up to 1983.

Sir Michael said he would mark the end of the taxpayers' involvement and he was confident the group would cease to be a burden on the Government once it reached break even.

The target is to break even at the trading level in 1983 and at the pretax level the following year.

Sir Michael, however, confirmed his determination to leave BL when his contract expires at the end of the year and warned his as yet unnamed successor not to stay for an indefinite period.

As this one reaches a stage where he has to say: "Is it helpful for me to continue?" Anyone doing this job knows what he could be going to be a focus of love, hate and all sorts of other emotions. You get to the point where the company will suffer if it persists."

The chairman has, however, won the full backing of the government, particularly since accelerating the company's programme of disposal and decentralization in a bid

to attract private capital. Recently, BL negotiated £270m of medium-term bank loans.

The ideal financial outcome for the company this year, Sir Michael said, would be to reduce trading losses to the same level as last year's half-year figure of £143m.

Substantial improvements occurred last year in the cars operation, with losses cut by £115m to £168m although this was offset by a big increase in the truck and bus division. Leyland Group's loss rose by £30 in 1980 to £74m and would have been worse but for the contribution made by profitable overseas companies.

Last year's total losses included £96m to cover redundancy payments for 1981 and 1982.

At the pretax level the following year.

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Substantial improvements occurred last year in the cars operation

MONEY

Keeping ahead of the tax inspector

The Budget out of the tax diary is the end of the year and there are a number of matters to be sorted out before April 5 if you want to minimise your liability.

Pensions

A self-employed and anyone in a non-pensionable job should check that they have taken full advantage of the full tax relief available on contributions to a self-employed pension scheme. Tax relief is given at your highest marginal rate, and at the top end of the scale this means that the 60 per cent taxpayer obtains £100 worth of investment for a net outlay of only £40.

For those retired in 1981-82 this could be the last chance to make a pension contribution without getting into difficulties over eligibility requirements. Maximum contribution is 17.5 per cent of "net relevant earnings" (income, less expenses) — higher for people over the age of 50.

Covenants

Parents who are paying to keep a child at university (or in other full-time education) can save 30 per cent of the child's maintenance costs by making payments to the child (who must be over 18) by a deed of covenant. A covenant is allowed tax relief (at the basic rate only) on the gross amount of a covenant, and the recipient is entitled to reclaim tax deducted at source (provided he or she remains a non-taxpayer).

The end of the tax year is a good time to set up a deed of covenant since the student offspring's income is known and you can make fairly precise calculations how much it is worth covenanting. Making a covenant now for 1981-82 reduces the amount of time before the student is able to reclaim tax. Covenants can be made between any two people — a parent and a child, for example — but in the case of a parent, you will only be entitled to tax relief on payments made to your own children.

Assurance

If you want to obtain tax relief on insurance premiums for 1981-82, the premiums must be paid before 15.12.82.

Tax relief is granted at a rate of 15 per cent for

premiums paid on a qualifying life policy, up to a limit of £1,500 a year or a sixth of your income (whichever is the greater).

Husband/Wife

It may pay married couples with joint income of £17,000 or more to elect to be taxed separately. Under separate taxation (not to be confused with separate assessment) the total tax bill remains the same but is shared in proportion between the husband and wife. The husband loses the married couple's tax allowance but both partners are entitled to a single person's allowance. As a result they can both claim up to £11,250 of taxable income each (1981-82) before becoming liable to higher rate tax.

If they are taxed together their joint income will clearly push them into higher rate tax bands. The point at which it pays to opt for separate taxation is where the joint income is £17,000 or more. The figure will be higher if you have mortgage interest relief or maintenance payments to set off against income.

A wife's investment income is always treated as though it belonged to her husband and you should take this into account before making the separate taxation election. You can opt for separate taxation any time up to 12 months after the end of the tax year. Those choosing separate taxation for 1981-82 have until April 5 to decide.

Golden Handshakes

Anyone being offered a redundancy payment of £50,000 or more should make up their mind before April 5. At the moment, the first £25,000 of a golden handshake is tax free and the excess is taxed at half your marginal rate. This means in effect that the maximum tax liability will be 30 per cent on the excess over £25,000.

For people made redundant after April 5, 1982 the first £5,000 is tax free, the next £25,000 is taxed at half your marginal rate, the next £25,000 at three quarters of your marginal rate and the excess over £75,000 at your full tax rate.

Capital Gains Tax

The Chancellor made some important changes to CGT which will come into effect next week. It will pay you to realize capital gains within the annual exemptions (£3,000 for the current year, £5,000 for 1982-83). But it is less clear whether it is worthwhile "bed and breakfasting" (selling and buying

back) shares to establish a capital loss. From April 5, 1982, the acquisition price of securities and other assets will be index-linked in line with inflation and capital gains tax will be payable only on the excess over the inflation-adjusted acquisition cost.

If you realize your losses, you establish a lower base line for index linking which will be to your disadvantage. In addition, index-linking does not start until one year after the date of acquisition so if you are bed and breakfasting you also lose 12 months' inflation linking. This will not matter of course if you are simply cutting your losses and selling out for good. In that case you offset any capital loss against other capital gains.

Conclusion

The calculations necessary to establish whether a particular move is worthwhile in tax terms are almost invariably complex. If you have substantial assets or income it will pay to consult an accountant. But for those left to wrestle with the problems alone, there is help available.

The Consumers Association publishes an excellent *Tax Saving Guide* every year in the March edition of *Money*. To obtain a copy you have to be a regular subscriber to both *Which* and the *Money* *Which* supplement.

The guide covers every aspect of personal taxation and gives a host of worked examples and advice on how to deal with the Inland Revenue. All but the lunatic should be able to cope with their tax affairs after consulting the guide. An annual subscription to *Which* magazine and *Money* *Which* supplement costs £15 including post and is available from the Consumers Association, Caxton Hill, Hertford, SG13 7LZ.

Slightly more technical — but equally straightforward — is the *Home Tax Guide*. This costs £8 and is published by Queen Anne Press, Macdonald & Co, Paulston House, Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7LW.

The provisions for relating back pension contributions to previous years are complicated and if you feel you cannot deal with them, a pension consultant or registered insurance broker (not to mention insurance company representative) will be delighted to help.

Insurance companies are a mine of free information on Capital Transfer Tax, Life Assurance relief and pension relief.

Lorna Bourke

Meagre return on new issue

The new twenty-fourth issue of National Savings certificates, announced by the Chancellor on his Budget speech, will be a disappointment to investors. It goes on sale on April 19 and offers a tax-free return of only 8.32 per cent over the five year term. Maximum investment is £2,500.

At this level the new certificates are unlikely to appeal to anyone but those who pay tax at the top rates. Building society investors can currently earn 9.75 per cent net of basic rate tax on an extra interest account, and although building society interest rates are not fixed, the immediate appeal of an extra interest account is considerably greater than this rather dismal new offering from National Savings.

If basic rate taxpayers really want to tie up their money for five years, they will do much better with a five year income bond, currently available with a return of 11.7 per cent net of basic rate tax from Crown Life (see *Money* *Market* for other income bonds).

Higher rate taxpayers who have already bought the maximum holding of previous issues of National Savings certificates, might be tempted to bite at the 24th. But the new issue of index-linked gilts is likely to prove a better bet. The allocation price of £97.50 announced yesterday gives investors inflation proofing for their capital plus a real return of about 2.25 per cent a year.

Compared with the 24th issue certificates with index-linked gilts, unless you believe that inflation is going to run at less than 8.9 per cent over the coming five years, the index-linked gilts must be a bargain.

National Savings has also announced extension terms for holders of 8th and 12th issue National Savings certificates which are not very appealing. The return over the coming year is equivalent to 8.4 per cent. Basic rate taxpayers should cash in and buy a five year income bond which offers 10.5 per cent (see *Family Money* Market).



Grimsby fishermen: they will be happy with the scheme which nets them a guaranteed minimum pension.

A lifeline for fishermen

Grimsby fishermen who regularly face the elements to ensure their supplies of fresh fish can set forth with renewed confidence in their future. The Grimsby Fishing Vessel Owners Association has set up a pension scheme for its 900 member fishermen on an industry-wide basis, removing the problem which comes with frequent job changes.

All employers will contribute 5 per cent of an employee's earnings up to £10,400 a year to the fund and the fishermen will be able to make tax deductible contributions of their own on a voluntary basis to boost their pension.

The scheme which is being managed by Save and Prosper offers a guaranteed minimum pension and contributions will be invested in Save and Prosper's Managed Pension Fund.

Industry-based schemes — rare compared with the more usual employer-run pension funds — get around the problem of reduced pension benefits for early leavers. With an industry-based scheme, the job-changer remains a member of the same pension fund and suffers no reduction of his benefits when moving from one firm to another.

Pensioners may earn more under new rules

Pensioners, the sick and disabled will be pleased at the prospect of higher state benefits in November. But this is not the only improvement. The Chancellor has also raised the limits on the amounts which can be earned while receiving benefits.

By far the biggest group to benefit will be pensioners. At present they are allowed to earn just £52 a week. Above this limit, set almost three years ago, their pension starts to be reduced. From November, the earnings limit becomes £57.

Most pensioners will tell you that there should not be an earnings limit at all, and indeed the Government has said it is committed to ending the rule, but only when economic circumstances permit.

Presently, the single pension is £29.60 a week. Earnings below £52 a week do not affect it. Earnings of £56 cut the pension by £2, and as earnings increase beyond this, the pension is cut on a 10p for 10p basis. Weekly earnings of around £64 are enough to cancel the pension.

From November, the pension will be £32.85. Using the same formula, but based on the new £57 level, the pension will be lost when earnings reach £92 a week.

Where a wife is under pensionable age, her husband's earnings can cut into any extra pension he gets for her. At present, a married couple's pension of £47.35 a week is lost when earnings top £102 a week; from November, when the pension will be £52.55, the earnings needed for the pension to be lost will be £112.

This rule applies to men aged between 65 and 70, and women between 60 and 65. Over those ages earnings, however high, do not affect the pension.

Not only will pensioners benefit from the raising of their earnings limit, others collecting different state benefits will also find themselves better off.

For example, anyone getting invalid care allowance

while looking after a sick or old person is only allowed to earn £6 a week. If earnings go over this, the benefit stops. This limit has been in force since 1976 when invalid care allowance was first paid. This limit will double.

Those who are sick or get a tonic too. Anyone who receives sickness or invalidity benefit is allowed to take on part-time work of a "therapeutic" nature, provided their doctor approves and the Department of Health and Social Security agrees. Presently, there is a limit of £16.50 a week on the amount which can be earned. This will go up in November to £20.

Ian McDonald

Lloyds loans cheapest

Lloyds Bank, the last of the big four high street banks to cut its home loan rate, announced this week a 1.5 per cent reduction bringing its home loan rate down to 13.5 per cent.

This makes Lloyds home loans the cheapest. Monthly repayments on each £1,000 borrowed over 25 years from Lloyds work out at £11.54 compared with £11.75 from a building society or £11.72 from Lloyds' nearest competitor, Barclays.

Although Lloyds home

loan rate of 13.5 per cent is the same as that quoted by the building societies, the true rate of interest on a building society loan is higher because they calculate interest at less frequent intervals than the banks. The Director General of Fair Trading is currently reviewing the building societies' exemption from the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act which require lenders to quote true interest rates according to a fixed formula.

FAMILY MONEY MATTERS

Banks
Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays, Lloyds Bank, National Westminster, 10 per cent; Midland, 10 per cent; seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £5,000-£25,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed deposits — 1 month 12½ per cent, 3 and 6 months, 12 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds
Simco 7-day fund, 13.63 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 14.37 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.37 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233). Tyndall (0272-782241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent. First £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal. Maximum investment £200,000. "Reducing to 13½ per cent on April 1."

Local authority yearling loans
12-month fixed rate investments, interest 13½ per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. Two years, General Portfolio Life 10.5 per cent net; minimum investment £500. Three years, General Portfolio Life 10.7 per cent net; minimum investment £500. Four years, American Life, 12.00-13.5 per cent (dependent on age); minimum investment £1,000.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts — 8.75 per cent. Term shares — 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 pc and 2 pc over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 pc over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Finance house deposits
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 12½ per cent; 1 year, 12½ per cent; 2 years, 13 per cent. Foreign currency deposits — interest paid without deduction of tax.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr 13½ per cent; 2 yr 13½ per cent; 3 yr 14½ per cent; 4 yr 14½ per cent; 5 yr 14½ per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

Finance for industry
Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13½ per cent; 5-7 years, 13½ per cent; 8-10 years, 13½ per cent. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

US dollar (call) 12½ p.c. 12½ p.c. Yen (2 years) 3½ p.c. 3½ p.c. D. Mark 6½ p.c. 7½ p.c. French Franc 13 p.c. 13½ p.c. Swiss Franc 1 p.c. 1 p.c.

Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

MONEY TALK

Campaign to promote new homes

Britain's housebuilders are preparing to spend as much as £100,000 this year to change their image through the launch of the New Homes Marketing Board. They have been joined by material producers and energy authorities. The aim of the new marketing board is to sell more new houses by assuring us that building standards have been vastly improved and that the claim "they don't build houses like they used to" is outdated.

Through publicity campaigns, including a major national competition, builders are setting out to woo buyers on to development sites to convince them of the benefits of new houses.

According to Mr Richard Dibben, president of the House-Builders Federation, "New houses have suffered for too long from the negative images which are a hangover from the 1950s."

Leeds follows

One hundred per cent loans for house purchase are now available from Leeds Permanent Building Society. Leeds joins Abbey National and Bristol & West as the third major society to offer this facility.

Leeds will lend up to 100 per cent of the purchase price on homes costing up to £30,000, 95 per cent up to £40,000, 90 per cent on homes costing up to £50,000 and 85 per cent above this figure. As always there is a catch.

You have to be prepared to fork out for the premium on an insurance policy to indemnify the building society in the event of the society incurring a loss. On a £25,000, 100 per cent loan over 25 years the insurance premium would be £132.50.

Gilts interest

Reader interest in index-linked gilts has been running high, but there still seems to be some confusion on how the interest is adjusted for inflation. For example, here is how the March 1983 payment on the new 2 per cent index-linked Treasury Stock 1988, will be calculated.

The base from which the rate of inflation is to be calculated is July 1981. If inflation is zero, what the Government says it will, then the rise in the year to July 1982 will be 9 per cent. There is an eight-month time lag before this is applied to the interest payment.

The coupon is 2 per cent, so interest for the six months to March 1983 — interest is paid half-yearly — will be £1 per £100. That £1 is adjusted for the 9 per cent increase in inflation. Nine per cent of £1 is 9p, so the inflation adjusted interest payment will be £1.09.

Aiming for capital

Royal Life is launching two new unit trusts which will aim to provide investors with capital growth rather than income. Royal Life International Trust and Royal Life Equity Trust will aim for long term performance, with both trusts taking an interest in the electrical and electronics industries and a share of the specialized chemical and pharmaceutical companies, as well as natural resources stocks.

The International Trust will invest mainly in Japan and the USA, with small amounts in Australia and Canada.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds.	13½%
C. Hoare & Co	13½%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 2 day deposits on sums of £10,000, £50,000, £100,000, £250,000 and over 11½%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	Pctl	Yld %
129	100	Ass Brit Ind. CUTS	129	+1	10.0	7.8	—
75	62	Admiral Group	75	—	4.7	6.4	11.6
51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8
205	187	Barton Hill	199	+1	9.7	4.9	9.7
107	100	CCL 11½% Conv Pref	107	—	15.7	14.7	—
104	63	Deborah Services	63	—	5.0	9.5	3.1
131	97	Frank Horsell	127	—	6.4	5.0	11.4
83	39	Frederick Parker	81	—	6.4	7.9	4.1
78	46	George Blair	53	—	—	—	—
102	63	Ind Prec Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8
109	100	Isle Corp Pref	109	—	15.7	14.4	—
113	94	Jackman Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1
130	108	James Burroughs	114	+1	8.7	7.6	8.3
334	248	Robert Jenkins	248	+1	5.3	12.6	3.4
61	51	Scrummors "A"	61	—	5.3	8.3	9.8
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1
15	10	Twinklark Ord	13½	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklark 15% UL	75	—	15.0	19.0	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5
103	73	Wainwright Alexander	79	—	6.4	8.1	5.2
263	212	W S Yeates	228	—	13.1	5.7	4.3

Prices now available on Prestel page 48116

Advertisements criticized

Adverts to your claims — and fast. — advertisement for a householder in Worthing, Sussex, who had a policyholder's advertisement for the Advertisements Authority.

The claim made in the advertisement was that the ASA's ruling was still out of date. The ASA's ruling was that the ASA's ruling was still out of date.

INVESTMENT OF A LIFETIME

£595 — £4,956 IN 1992

£9754 IN 1997

£19,197 IN 2002

£37,779 IN 2007

BE WORTH FREE

Compare £1,595 invested into this plan with similar alternative investments based on current interest rates.

Investment Period: 10 years £ 4,956 £ 4,427 £ 4,244 £ 3,934 £ 4,533

15 years £ 9,754 £ 7,377 £ 6,856 £ 6,094 £ 7,642

20 years £19,197 £12,202 £10,518 £ 9,477 £12,883

25 years £37,779 £20,481 £16,178 £14,931 £21,716

Small tax liability for higher rate taxpayers. * Less for higher rate taxpayers.

Life cover of up to £2,000 is provided but no medical is required.

Your money is invested only into Trustee securities, currently into British Government securities, offering high yields with no tax liability. Normally you have to be either a nil taxpayer or a non-resident to benefit from this outstanding tax advantage. The Society's investment income and gains will be converted into bonuses, which are then guaranteed for the duration of your investment.

Because of this the contribution level and eligibility is strictly limited — only husbands and wives, and single parents, can participate and the maximum contribution level, after tax relief, is around £21.25 per month, £244.80 per annum or £1,595 as an equivalent single payment.

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FOOTBALL

English survivors avoid the cup favourites

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Britain's last two European ambassadors avoid the favourites when the semi-final draws of the three competitions were made in Zurich yesterday. Aston Villa, the League champions, and Manchester City, the FA Cup holders, are against Barcelona in the European Cup. Both, though, will have the disadvantage of hosting the first legs on April 7.

At least Villa, having visited the city, have been warned that the first leg will be a tough one. The second leg, however, will be a more comfortable affair. The Welsh side, having been away from home for the first leg, will have the advantage of playing at home for the second leg.

Manchester City, on the other hand, will have the disadvantage of playing away from home for the first leg. The second leg, however, will be a more comfortable affair. The Welsh side, having been away from home for the first leg, will have the advantage of playing at home for the second leg.

Kember is given more time Clubs confuse World Cup preparations

By Stuart Jones

Mr Greenwood has already lost his job as manager of Crystal Palace, but he has been given more time to prepare for the World Cup. The club has decided to keep him on until the end of the season, despite the fact that he has been sacked by the Football League.

The club's decision is a surprise, as it is the first time a manager has been given more time to prepare for the World Cup. The club has decided to keep him on until the end of the season, despite the fact that he has been sacked by the Football League.

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Dickinsons back to bread and butter

By Michael Seely

It was back to work as usual at Harwood yesterday afternoon after Michael Dickinson's magnificent raid on Cheltenham. Silver Buck, the hero of Thursday's Gold Cup, is safely back in his box as his stable companion, Bregano.

Tony, the trainer's father said: "It's all very quiet here. We had a good drive home and a bit of supper on the way. Quite frankly, we're all a bit tired. But this is how you would expect this talented young country family to behave. They're not the kind of people who would go out and party after a big win. They're the kind of people who would go out and party after a big win."

Dickinson's only runner this morning is Badsworth Boy in the Ingemar Challenge Cup at Uttoxeter. Robert Evershaw will ride the versatile horse, who has won the Gold Cup and the Ingemar Challenge Cup. He is a very good side, and he is a very good side.

After beating Thursday's Heston winner, Dusky Duke at Wetherby, Badsworth Boy experienced a difficult time in the Gold Cup. He was a very good side, and he is a very good side.

Newcastle

Television (TV): 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45

2.15 BUST MOTORS LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 2.00-2.30) (8 runners)

1. 04-121 MIDNIGHT COURT (Mr O. Jackson) F Winter 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-215

Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.25-8.55 Open University: Can You Hear Me? 6.50 Work and Retirement; 7.15 Educating the World; 7.40 History of Maths; 8.05 To Bedford from Buss; 8.30 Art and Environment; 9.05 The Do-It-Yourself Film Animation Show; how to make a cartoon (v); 9.30 Sweep Shop; from Bruges, Belgium. In the studio: speaker champion Steve Davis, Adam Ant and Kevin Keegan; 12.15 Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 1.10 Basketball: Just Juice Championship Finals; from Wembley Arena; 1.25 Ice skating (Torvill and Dean in the champions exhibition); 1.40 Basketball: 2.10 Boxing: The best of the action from this week's events at the Royal Albert Hall; 2.25 International Rugby Union: Wales v Scotland; from Cardiff Arms Park; 3.50 Half-time scores; 3.55 International Rugby Union: France v Ireland. From Paris.

BBC 2

6.25-3.10. Open University: The Client; 7.15 Maths; 7.40 Baroque wind instruments; 8.05 Dome on the Range; 8.30 Edinburgh; 8.55 Too Busy to Hate; 9.20 Landscape; 9.45 ABC in Kansas City; 10.10 Why Build Models? 10.35 Ethical fallacies; 11.00 Maths; 11.25 Genetics; 11.50 Easy as ABC? 12.15 Equations; 12.40 Statistics; 1.05 Is it Significant? 1.30 Bronze Casting; 1.55 Reading Development; 2.20 Coat; 2.45 Systems Boundaries and Blases; 3.50 Films: Father of the Bride (1950) Endearing comedy romance about a wedding in a small American town. Elizabeth Taylor is the bride, Spencer Tracy the father, Joan Bennett the mother.

ITV/LONDON

6.35 Sesame Street: with The Muppets; 9.35 Space 1999: Space Brain (v); 10.30 Tinseltown: entertainment for children and easily-pleased parents; 12.15 World of Sport: The line-up is: 12.20 On the Ball; 12.45 Ice Speedway World Individual Championship Final, from Inzell, West Germany; 1.05 Swimming (Soviet Union v East Germany, from Moscow); 1.15 News from ITN; 1.20 The ITV Six: We see the 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 from Lifford, and the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 from Newcastle; 3.00 Women's International Hockey: Live, from Wembley Stadium — the England versus The Netherlands match. This is the first time that the new, experimental rules for women's hockey will have been seen in operation on television. The Dutch team are the world champions; 3.45 Half-time football results. And a breakdown of the other sporting results received so far this afternoon.

BBC 1

6.25 Open University: Frank Lloyd Wright; 6.50 Hindu village; 7.15 Systems Modelling; 7.40 Historical legacy; 8.30 Intervention in Market; 9.00 Heads and Tails; 9.15 Nal Zindagi Naya Jeeta; 9.45 Superlatives: Industry and commerce film (v); 10.10 The Computer Programme; 10.35 The Engineers: John Fisher (v); 11.00 The Skill of Lip Reading: classroom sketch (v); 11.25 Ensemble: French course, lesson 21 (v); 11.50 Maths Help: factors; 12.00 Feeling Great: dietary fibre (v); 12.15 Sunday Worship: from St Peter's, Harold Wood, Essex; 1.00 Farming; 1.25 Paint: Wash techniques (v); 1.50 News; 1.55 Film: The Building Bred (1981) Norman Wisdom in the Royal Navy. With Ian Hunter, Edward Chapman; 3.30 International Darts: Scotland v England. See 4.45.

BBC 2

Open University until 1.55, includes the Nature of Chemistry (7.40); Computing at the Royal Bank of Scotland (11.25); Deep Sea Drilling (11.50); and Energy to Go Round (1.30). At 2.10: Horizon: The Future — Made in Japan? Why the Japanese, flushed with success in the technological field, are worried about the prospect of having to undertake fundamental research for the first time (v); 3.00 Live from the Barbican: Lecture/concert — the second in a new series. John Arns discusses Beethoven's Eroica Symphony with Yehudi Menuhin who rehearses, then conducts, the London Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the work.

ITV/LONDON

9.05 Me and My Camera: useful hints for the tyro (v); 9.30 Cartoons; 9.45 God's Story: Moses and Joshua; 10.00 God Help Me: An analysis of The Lord's Prayer; 10.30 But What Do You Really Believe? Interview with the Reverend Buddhist Sangharakshita, founder of the Western Buddhist Order; 11.00 Getting On: extended-care hospital; 11.30 Singing: puppet adventure story; 12.00 Weekend World; El Salvador: pre-election report; 1.00 Skin: First in a new series about black Londoners; Muggings: statistics and the media; 1.30 The Great Depression: Final film in Godfrey Hodgson's series about the repercussions of the 1929 Stock Market crash. It asks: could it happen again? 2.30 News headlines. Then, The Big Match: Action from three of yesterday's top League games; 3.30 The Adventures of Black Beauty: A meeting with a kindly tramp (Derek Smith). Starring Judi Bowker (v).

5.05 The All New Pink Panther Show: three cartoons.
5.25 News: with Jan Leeming; 5.35 Sports round-up.
5.40 The Dukes of Hazzard: The dastardly Boss takes advantage of Bo Duke's amnesia by telling him that he is his son.
6.30 Jim'll Fix It: A boy is rowed to Angher to see diamonds being cut. And a girl who normally gets few letters, is engulfed by a tidal wave of correspondence.
7.05 Ken Dodd's Showbiz Music Hall entertainment, with the American magician Norm Macdonald this violin plays itself in mid-air, the kookabout comedian The Ghazis, Troop, and Pro! Yaffie Chuckabuty (Mr. Dodd).
7.40 Film: Red Alert (1977). Made-for-TV thriller about a time bomb that has been placed in the nerve centre of a "doomsday" computer in the Atomic Energy Agency. Fourteen men are trapped there. With William Devane, Michael Brandon.

5.00 The Sky at Night: Patrick Moore interviews Heather Coupe about the invisible star of Epsilon Aurigae. It may be the biggest star known to science. (v)
5.20 Attitudes — The Second Handicap. Chris Davies, a spastic from Birkenhead, explodes some of the myths that surround disability.
6.10 Did You See...? Coin Welland on We'll Meet Again; Andrew Phillips on Out of Court; and Janet Suzman on Disappearing World; Asante Market Woman; Ian Wainwright on football on TV.
6.50 News: and sports round-up.
7.05 Handel's Messiah: Recorded in Westminster Abbey. Original baroque instruments are used by the Academy of Ancient Music.

4.00 World of Sport (continued). Wrestling: two singles and a tag match. From Hempted; 4.50 Results service.
5.05 News from ITN.
5.15 Happy Days: Lori Beth gets a long-distance proposal of marriage, and Marion competes in a TV game show.
5.45 Dick Turpin: A village is held to ransom by a notorious fanatic (John Gielgud) and his bullying aide (Robert Russell).
6.15 Mind Your Language: Comedy series, set in a languages school. Today: teacher (Barry Evans) and some of his students and up in court (v).
6.45 3-2-1 Comedy quiz show, hosted by Red Rogers. The theme tonight is horror, of the Dracula variety.
7.45 Hart to Hart: Thriller series, with Stefanie Powers and Robert Wagner as the husband-and-wife private investigators.
8.45 News from ITN. And sports round-up.

4.15 Motor Racing: First round of the European Formula Two Championship. From Silverstone. The Marlboro International Trophy.
4.45 International Darts: The Oneed Line: Nautical drama serial, set in the days of the big ships. With Peter Gilmore as James O'Connell (v); 5.50 News.
6.00 Holiday: John Savage in out-of-season Cyprus; Tom Carver goes skiing in Austria; and Paul Hughes goes painting in Constantine.
6.35 Richard Baker: an appeal on behalf of television for the Deaf Fund.
6.40 Songs of Prisoners form Tenby. Dyfed.
7.15 Open All Hours: The return of the comedy series starring Ronnie Barker as the avuncular shopkeeper.
7.45 Film: Logan's Run (1976) Science fiction drama about a future society in which everyone over 30 is doomed. With Michael York, Jenny Agutter.

4.30 How Death Came to Earth: Indian cartoon.
4.45 International Rugby Special: Highlights from yesterday's France v Ireland and Wales v Scotland matches.
6.00 News Review: with sub-titles.
6.30 The Money Programme: The curious plight of British football.
7.15 The World About Us: Big Business in Bees. The story of two species — the "Solitary" bee and the Californian honey bee — which are very highly prized in the United States. But there is a threat in the shape of a bee from South America.
8.05 Nancy Astor Part six. A political door opens for Nancy (Liza Harrow) when her husband Waldorf (James Fox) inherits his father's title in the House of Lords.
8.55 News: with Jan Leeming.

4.00 Cartoons. From the United States.
4.15 Film: Decoy (1983) British-made wartime drama about a British crew who capture a German submarine and embark on a dangerous mission. Starring Edward Judd, James Robertson Justice, Laurence Payne.
6.00 Love: First of four films presented by consultant psychiatrist Jack Dominion. Today: Love from birth to puberty. The establishment of loving relationships with parents and family. Next week: adolescence to marriage.
6.30 News from ITN.
6.40 Sunday Best: Religious entertainment. The star guest is Harry Secombe.
7.15 The Fall Guy: Drama series about a Hollywood stuntman and bounty hunter (Lee Majors).
8.15 Father: Lionel Jeffries as a cockney chaplain in a convent. Tonight: a case of lumbago that is misinterpreted as something much more serious. Anna Quaye plays the Mother Superior.
8.45 News.

9.10 Dallas: Not content with blackmailing his own brother, J. R. tries about either blackmailing or trying to ruin two other people.
10.00 News. And a round-up of the day's main sporting events.
10.15 Match of the Day: Action from two of today's football League matches.
11.15 Parkinson: With Peter Ustinov, Derek Nimmo, George Melly.

9.35 Film: Panther Panchell (1956) The film with which Satyajit Ray made his debut as director and which instantly won him the world's most imaginative film-makers. It was the first film in the Bengali movie history. It was shot mainly on location in a Bengal village and is the story of a boy's growing up in a rapidly changing society. Subi Banerjee plays the boy, Anu.
11.35 News: with Jan Leeming.
11.40 Midnight Movie: Payroll (1961) British-made thriller with Billie Whitelaw avenging herself on the crooks who killed her husband in an armed robbery. Co-starring Michael Craig, Tom Bell, Kenneth Griffith and William Lucas. Director: Sidney Hayers. Ends at 1.30am.

9.00 Film: The Valdez Horse (1973) Western, starring Charles Bronson as the half-breed who runs a Mexican stud farm. Vincent Van Pattern is the teenager who runs away to live at the farm. Co-starring Jill Ireland.
10.50 OTT: Comedy and music show.
11.50 News headlines. Followed by Johnny Carson's Tonight Show with Michael Caine and Dana Hill.
12.30 Close: Dr Anthony Starr on inspiration.

9.40 Omnibus: Interview with John Mortimer, barrister and playwright, who has just written his autobiography. He tells Barry Norman about his days with the Crown Film Unit, his work at the Bar, and his television and theatre work. We shall also hear him on the topic of his father, depicted by Laurence Olivier in the recent ITV play. Also: a profile of the Indian dancer Alamelu Valli, fascinating exponent of a 4,000-year-old Indian temple dance.
10.30 News: with Jan Leeming.
10.40 Choices: Members of a studio audience discuss crucial decisions of conscience they made. The panel: Polly Toynbee, Lord Soper, and Norman St. John-Stevens. The chairman: Libby Purves.
11.15 Never Too Late: Mature students at colleges, universities and polytechnics talk about grass roots and family life.
11.40 International Darts: Highlights from today's final of the Arrow chemicals British International Championship, between England and Scotland.
12.30 Weather forecast and close-down.

9.05 The Much Loved Music Show. Owin Arvel Hughes conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Choral Society by Rossini, Elgar, Holst, Berlioz, Borodin and Saint-Saens. The soloist is Bernadette Greevy.
9.55 Grand Prix: Highlights of the Brazilian Grand Prix, run earlier in the day in Rio de Janeiro. The reigning world champion Nelson Piquet is among the contestants, as is three-times winner Carlos Reutemann.
10.30 Winter Kills (1974) Political drama, set in the United States. It's the story of a conspiracy to assassinate a President. It stars Jeff Bridges and John Huston as son and father. There's also a guest appearance by Elizabeth Taylor. Ends at 12.00 midnight.

9.00 Around Whickers World in 25 Years: Another collection of film reports by seasoned globe-trotter Alan Whicker. The wife of a cosmetic surgeon, tells how her husband gave her a new lease of life. There is also Hollywood's most powerful woman, studio chief Mary Pickford. Dutch Cassidy's sister, Julia Parker Benson and the San Francisco policeman who turns herself into a little old lady.
10.00 Whoops Accapote: Part two of this political satire which shows how the world could plunge headlong into the final war. Tonight: more about that plot to put a Shah back on the throne.
10.30 The South Bank Show: A film about the British composer Peter Maxwell-Davies whose work divides both critics and public. Extracts from some of his works are performed.
11.30 London News. Then another in the Vet series.
12.30 Close. Dr Anthony Starr on inspiration.

Radio 4

6.30 News.
6.52 Farming Today.
7.00 News.
7.10 Today's Papers.
7.15 Your Film.
7.45 Yours Faithfully.
7.50 It's a Bargain.
8.00 News.
8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 Sport on 4.
8.45 Radio 4 in Parliament.
8.57 Weather and Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Breakfast.
9.10 News.
10.05 The Week in Westminster.
10.10 Daily Services.
10.15 The Week in Westminster.
11.25 From our own Correspondents.
12.00 News.
12.05 News.
12.30 The Sunday Review (A Club (new series)).
12.35 Weather and Programme News.
1.00 Any Questions.
2.00 News.
2.05 Play: "An Arranged Marriage" by Helena Cattermole.
2.15 Medicine Now.
3.00 Wildlife.
3.30 The British Sate: A History in 26 parts (v).
4.15 Feedback with Tom Varney.
4.30 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled persons.
5.00 What Are We Doing in a Child? How does divorce and separation affect children?
5.35 Weather and Programme News.
6.00 News.
6.15 Desert Island Discs. Cattermole. Lord Miles.

Radio 3

6.55 Stop The Week with Robert Robertson.
7.35 Baker's Dozen, Richard Baker with research.
8.30 Play: "Zerk" by Harold Brighouse.
9.00 News.
10.05 Something to Declare. Travellers' Tales (v) "To the Golden Triangle".
11.00 Lighter On Darkness.
11.15 A Word in Edgeways.
11.45 Gardening at Brighthelm, Sussex. By 18th Century landscape at Castle Howard.
12.00 News and Weather.
7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Aynsley Saint-Sean, Haydn (records).
8.10 News.
8.15 Record Review.
10.15 Record Review. New records: Schubert, Mozart, Ar. Miller, Arthur Sullivan.
11.15 Broadcast. William Davis Construction Group Band; Edward Gregson, Gilbert Vint, Arthur Sullivan.
11.45 "Know What I Like. Record Review presents a personal selection of records".
1.00 News.
1.05 Early Music Forum.
2.00 Play: J. Agassi. Selection of recent music broadcasts.
5.00 Jazz Record Requests.
5.45 Critics' Forum.
6.55 Michael Bennett. Piano recital: Berg, Bartok, Debussy.
7.30 The Bach Who Came to London. Adriano in Britain. Opera by Johannes Christian.

Radio 2

5.00 am Peter Marshall. 6.00 David Jacobs. 10.00 Justin Hayward. 11.00 Dame Edith Everitt. 1.00 pm The News. 1.30 pm The News. 2.00 pm The News. 2.30 pm The News. 3.00 pm The News. 3.30 pm The News. 4.00 pm The News. 4.30 pm The News. 5.00 pm The News. 5.30 pm The News. 6.00 pm The News. 6.30 pm The News. 7.00 pm The News. 7.30 pm The News. 8.00 pm The News. 8.30 pm The News. 9.00 pm The News. 9.30 pm The News. 10.00 pm The News. 10.30 pm The News. 11.00 pm The News. 11.30 pm The News. 12.00 am The News. 12.30 am The News. 1.00 am The News. 1.30 am The News. 2.00 am The News. 2.30 am The News. 3.00 am The News. 3.30 am The News. 4.00 am The News. 4.30 am The News. 5.00 am The News. 5.30 am The News. 6.00 am The News. 6.30 am The News. 7.00 am The News. 7.30 am The News. 8.00 am The News. 8.30 am The News. 9.00 am The News. 9.30 am The News. 10.00 am The News. 10.30 am The News. 11.00 am The News. 11.30 am The News. 12.00 am The News. 12.30 am The News. 1.00 am The News. 1.30 am The 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Memsahib mini, this is your life...



This mini is the motor of life. It saw the light at Longbridge in 1958. It spent its first three years bustling about in the gentle green hills of Suffolk. Then it was sold to an American fashion model living near the King's Road (Philip Howard writes).

Eventually the model decided that she had had enough of swinging London and that California was where the action was. She sold the car to an accountant from Harrow who gave it to his wife to ferry their children to school.

The accountant prospered and his wife got a new Fiesta hatchback. The mini was bought by a student in Sussex who used it to get to London for parties and demonstrations, usually with three large supporters in the back and banners in the front seat. The student qualified and got a comfortable job in advertising. He sold it to a window-cleaner, who sold it to a bus conductor, who sold it to a milkman, who had it stolen from the front of his house in Kentish Town.

The joyriders abandoned the old mini on Hampstead Heath, a carcass for car-vultures, until it was sold to Messrs Khan and Khan (Shippers), who whisked it off to their agents in Dacca. Tom Learmonth photographed it leaving their yard to be carried across town from workshop to workshop, until it is reborn as good as new.

An exhibition of Learmonth's work called Underdeveloping Bangladesh opens at Camerawork Gallery, 131 Roman Road, London, on Tuesday.

Investment failure of London Transport

Continued from page 1

set as the high rate of subsidy is reduced and higher fares are set, while some staff are introduced on trains and platforms in the face of increased crime.

But while productivity in Paris improved with an improving system, LT's fall as the system was cut back to match falling demand. Passenger miles per employee fell by 14 per cent in London between 1970 and 1980 to 87,443, against around 170,000 in Paris.

Even within Britain, LT did not perform well. Figures prepared by GLC officials show that while British Rail and the bus industry significantly improved vehicle miles per employee in the 1970s, LT did not, although recently there has been some improvement.

In 1980, the GLC calculated, LT's operating costs would have been £40m lower if the productivity levels of 1970 had been achieved, and £60m lower if the 1960 levels had still held; before the introduction of one-man buses and the automation of signalling and some other Underground operations.

The reasons seem to lie in part in London's particular problems, in government failure to invest in management change, and in a failure to adopt lessons learnt by other undertakings in fares policy and structure.

During the 1970s, one-man operation of buses became almost universal, but not in London. Eighty per cent of all buses run by large operators are now one-man operated, but in London the figure is only 47 per cent. About 7,200 conductors are still employed.

LT also employs a similar number of bus engineering staff, where critics say other operators have saved costs by contracting out more work, and that LT's approach to engineering on both buses and Underground, where 12,000 engineering staff are employed, is a hangover from the days of profit.

As a result, London employs more staff for every bus than any other large operator in Britain. Figures prepared by Mr Martin Higginson and Mr Peter White, of the transport studies group at the Central London Polytechnic show that in 1980 West Midlands buses, which are all one-man operated, employed 347 staff per bus, against 526 in London.

LT can point to the different size of its undertaking. Large bus operations appear to be inherently more inefficient than small ones. Mr Higginson, however, says: "One of LT's failings is that it is not very receptive to ideas from outside. It has convinced itself it needs conductors on the busy central London routes but West Midlands, for example, has already proved that things can be done which LT is convinced are impossible. A quarter of its passengers use season tickets, which means that at peak times when commuters are travelling about half the passengers use them. That means faster fare collection.

Zonal fares also speed fare collection and encourage the use of season tickets. Their introduction with Fare's Fair is one benefit that will survive the fare increase. The zones, however, have yet to be fully matched to the Underground zones.

On the Underground, the issue of one-man operation is even more fraught, though the potential savings are smaller.

A combination of half-hearted investment and the inability of management to get the unions to agree to its operation, has meant that London has lagged behind international levels. In a recent survey by LT staff, 45 out of 27 underground train operators ran on single-man, while five others mixed single and double manning. LT is one of those five, running single-man trains only on the Victoria line. The other four operators expected to move over shortly to complete one-man operation, but not London.

Despite ensuring that every train ordered since 1963 is equipped for one-man operation, no progress has been made. There is no agreement with the unions to run them.

The outline agreement for a three years ago provided for a 7.5 per cent increase for all staff who could be promoted to driver, as soon as the system comes in. As a result, it would cost London Transport about £2m to bring in one-man operation on those lines that have been equipped, but savings would be only about £500,000.

Leading article, page 7

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

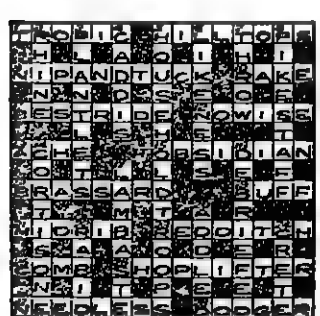
Today's events

New exhibitions
Picasso Prints, Edinburgh Printmakers' Workshop, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh. Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; (from today until April 17).

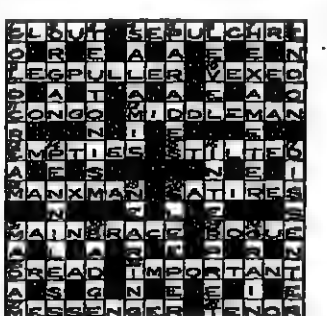
Inner Worlds—works selected by Paul Overy, E. M. Fitter Gallery, Walsall; Mon to Fri, 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45; (from today until April 24).

Paul Krause's Poland—political cartoons, Midland Group, 32 Carlton Street, Nottingham; Tues to Fri 11 to 7.30, Sat 10 to 12.

Solution of Puzzle No 15,779



Solution of Puzzle No 15,784



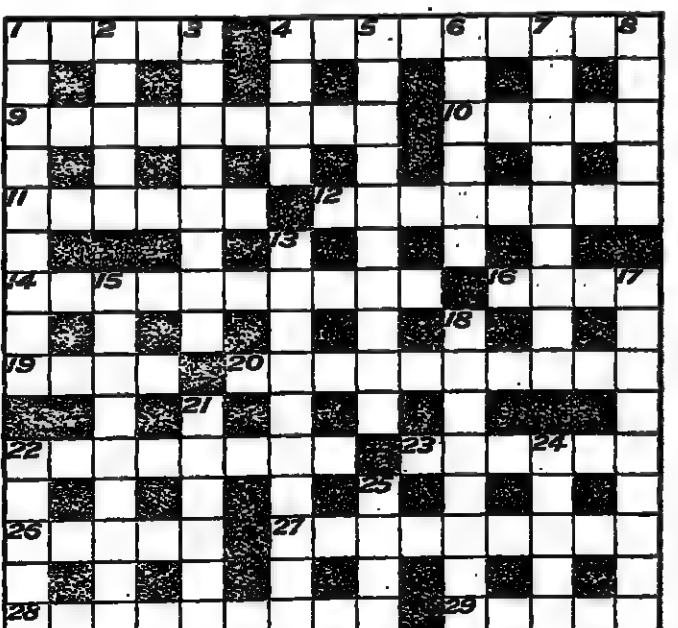
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,785

A price of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9JY. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winner of The Times Crossword Competition No 15,779 on Saturday, March 13 was Mr M. J. McStep, 9 Oakdown, Brighton Road, Sney, Havant.

Name

Address



- ACROSS
- 1 Containers for fires (5)
 - 4 Goings-on in trains have broken promise (9)
 - 9 Bird in barber's charge (5-4)
 - 10 One who walks back to cover the same ground (5)
 - 11 X wrong in return game (6)
 - 12 Henry's holding revolting flower (8)
 - 14 Centaur's mate seen in Banbury? (10)
 - 16 Objections rejected in the end (4)
 - 20 Indeed noble, an auditor (10)
 - 21 Order — I alter about 50 orders (8)
 - 23 Write quickly and sketchily at first; then go slowly (6)
 - 26 Arterial road leads to Downing Street — the centre (5)
 - 27 Forged letters from Marian to a lover (9)
 - 28 Flier crashed in motor-car after 1 left (9)
- DOWN
- 1 One who spreads out litter (9)
 - 2 Do listen to one of the family (5)
 - 3 Aren't its forms narrow? (8)
 - 4 In a word, see the swelling (4)
 - 5 Row out of port — a mentor for Mowgli (10)
 - 6 Servant handling king and knave (6)
 - 7 Has reactor arranged for some entertainers? (9)
 - 8 Cloth the Spanish reject (5)
 - 11 Arrange in a fold (10)
 - 13 Souvenir article included — so what's left? (9)
 - 17 Virago's weapon (6-3)
 - 18 A big hit shortly to be seen in Hong Kong (5-3)
 - 22 Military display also includes a race (6)
 - 23 Firm note to a Tory paper (5)
 - 24 First of all, go faster and further (5)
 - 25 Shy players (4)

Gardens open

Today and Tomorrow

Oxfordshire: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock; gardens designed by Henry Wise and Capability Brown, fountains, Italian gardens, French terraces; Churchill Museum; garden centre (11.30 to 5 daily until October 31).

Shropshire: The Old Parsonage, Munslow, Craven Arms, 10m from Ludlow, 12m from Bridgnorth; 2 acre garden, fine shrubs. (Visitors welcome at any time.)

Sussex: Denmans, Denmans Lane, Fontwell, 5m from Bognor, Chichester and Arundel; walled garden, plans for all year round interest, glass areas, plants for sale. (Every Saturday and Sunday until October 31, 2 to 6.)

Tomorrow

Gloucestershire: Rylands House, Tisbury, 8m W of Gloucester; 'Salway' between Huntley and Newent; many rare plants, wild garden, woodland, plants for sale (2 to 6).

Lincolnshire: Wheelabout Wood, 3m W of Spillay; 42 acres of trees, many rare trees and shrubs, map and tree key available, plants for sale (11 to 6).

Somerset: Broadleaved Gardens, Barr House, Bishop's Cleeve, 3m SW of Taunton; 4 acre nursery specialising in dwarf bulbs and unusual herbaceous plants, plants for sale. (2 to 6.)

In the garden

Prune winter flowering jasmines as soon as they have finished flowering, also buddleia davidii, which should have last year's growth cut back to within about six inches of base to avoid it becoming gaunt and leggy. Cut back raspberry canes by about a foot; if affected by frost, cut back into sound healthy wood. Prune gooseberry and red currant bushes may also be pruned now.

Plant fruit bushes and strawberries in next two or three weeks; perpetual or "remontant" strawberries planted soon will crop this year. Autumn fruiting raspberries such as Zeva will also give a small crop this year.

Tomorrow

Last chance to see

Poussin: Sacraments and Sacramental, paintings and drawings on sacred and profane themes, National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh 2 to 5; (ends today).

Nuclear Energy, Bedford Museum, Castle Lane, Bedford; 2 to 5; (ends today).

Metalwork, book illustrations, paintings and drawings by Arthur and George Gaslin, Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham; 2 to 5.30; (ends today).

Anniversaries

Orvid was born at Salmons, 45 BC and Hendrick II at Skien, Norway, 1828. Henry IV died in London, 1633 (succeeded by his son, Henry V). Sir Isaac Newton died in London, 1727. Tunisia gained independence, 1956.

Johann Sebastian Bach was born at Eisenach, 1685, and Jean Baptiste Fourier, French mathematician, at Auxerre, 1768. Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, was burned at the stake at Oxford, 1556. Robert Southey died at Keswick, 1843.

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Roads

London and South-east: A20

Roadworks tomorrow near Maidstone, Sussex. Earls Court area likely to become congested due to local house relocations.

Midlands: M6: Lane closures between junctions 1 (Rugby) and 2 (Coventry). Birmingham city centre likely to be congested due to football match; congestion also on A41, West Bromwich, and on M5, junction 1. Avoid Leicester town centre from 2 to 5 this afternoon.

North: A59: Temporary signals at Skipton, Yorkshire. A64: Delays at Leeming Bar, N York.

Wales and West: A420: Width restrictions at Lawrence Hill, Bristol. A39/A383: Horse trials at Alden Park, Yeovil; congestion likely. A55: Roadworks on Colwyn Bay by-pass.

Scotland: A726: Stop/go boards on Carmunnock Road, Busby, Southside. North Street, Glasgow closed tomorrow; diversion and single line traffic with lights SW of Inverary.

Information supplied by the AA.

Sea

Sealink, Holyhead/Dun Laoghaire services suspended.

The papers

The Daily Mail says "the economy seems at last to be moving into a virtuous circle—a prospect which should put a spring into the step of Mr Thatcher, and give a boost to the rest of us as well."

La Stampa foresees "hot days ahead" for Western European currencies on currency exchange markets until the end of March, blaming the Bundesbank which it blocked EEC proposals for a new monetary unit.

The Monetary Survey, which would have made greater use of the European unit of account.

Stamp duty

New help for house buyers comes into effect on Monday with the introduction of a new scale of stamp duty on house purchases. The exemption threshold is raised by £5,000 to £25,000 on purchases between £25,001 and £50,000 duty is 0.5%; £50,001 to £100,000, 1%; £100,001 to £250,000, 1.5%; and over £250,000, 2%. Over the £25,000 threshold, it becomes payable on the whole purchase price, not just on the excess over the £25,000 threshold.

The Pound

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.78	1.79
Austria Sch	31.29	31.30
Belgium Fr.	32.00	32.01
Canada \$	2.27	2.28
Denmark Kr	15.16	15.17
Finland Mk	20.35	20.36
France Fr	11.65	11.66
Germany DM	4.49	4.50
Greece Dr	116.00	116.01
Hong Kong \$	10.50	10.51
Ireland £	1.26	1.27
Italy Lit	2410.00	2410.01
Japan Yen	164.00	164.01
Netherlands Gld	4.94	4.95
Norway Kr	11.38	11.39
Portugal Esc	121.00	121.01
South Africa Rd	2.22	2.23
Spain Ptas	163.75	163.76
Sweden Kr	11.00	11.01
Switzerland Fr	5.59	5.60
USA \$	1.26	1.27
Yugoslavia Dnr	98.00	98.01

Forster for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied pursuant to Bank of England instructions.

London: The FT Index rose 5.3 to 552.7.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: Cathy James, TTIS, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 City's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

Weather

A weakening frontal trough will clear slowly S from 5 Britain.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, Rain, 4-6. High, 6.5. Wind: SE, 10-15 mph. Cloud: 10-15%.

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By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The MSC will have to convince the Government that the scheme is good value.

have pointed to the absurdity of the situation in which many people registered as unemployed would be willing to do something useful.

ended on Thursday after the Attorney General had intervened.

"The key point to what I did is that this was the

programme, Sunday, said she was not worried about the money that would be needed to pay the legal costs of her prosecution.

pressure have unpleasant side-effects, so it may be necessary to experiment with several until a suitable one is found.

High Blood Pressure: What Means For You And How Control It (Martin Dunin £2.50).

It
To
tz,
climbers will prove so re-
tant to the kudos and
cash attached to being
British or European "spe-
climbing champion"

Saturday was named yesterday as Mr Leon Clowes, 36, of Northern Rise, Elmere Port, Cheshire. He is married.

ter-
ged
les-
was

was the climax to a festival of life at the base attended by nuclear disarmament supporters from as far afield as Scotland, Yorkshire and South Wales. Thames Valley police estimated the attendance at 5,000. Many arrived in coaches and brought babies and young children.

Throughout the day the six ensembles to the base were the focus of activities including religious worship, music and dancing and poetry readings.

By Richard Evans

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By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

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By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Mr Alastair Pugh, British Caledonian's managing director, said that despite plans by British Airways to increase capacity across the Atlantic, Britain could well lose out in the short term from Laker's withdrawal.

Laker and British Airways divided Britain's half share of traffic about equally and it was perhaps too much to expect British Airways to pick up all Laker's traffic. But British Caledonian had its hands too.

□ An angry attack on Sir Freddie Laker and Britain's attitudes towards him was made by Switzerland's

By David Felton Labour Reporter

Region. Passengers who break the rule will be liable to be fined £50 and stewards are being asked to report people who ignore the ban. Some reserved seats will be exempt.

The decision was criticized yesterday by the Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST), which accused Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, of acting in an intolerant and patronizing manner.

Mr Stephen Eyres, director of (Forest) said: "This is part of British Rail's step by step strategy to suppress the rights of smokers."

The average weekly pocket money for Britain's 10 million children has fallen by 10 per cent from £1.13 last year to less than 85p. Children in the north and Scotland have been most affected, seeing their average pocket money drop by 34 per cent from £1.15 to less than 78p.

Wall's has produced its pocket money monitor for the last eight years, and says that the 1982 survey is the first to show a fall.

Children in the south, like their parents, seem to be more affluent than those in the rest of Britain. Their

By Norman Hammond

The early tools from the Shungura Formation, on the Omo River in southern Ethiopia, first found in 1969 and placed first firmly between Member B of the formation dated to three million years ago, and to a level higher than Member E at 2.2 million years. These are the tools that Dr Coppens feels "must have been made by *Australopithecus africanus*" or by *Homo habilis*.

"Other tools have also been washed back in time by the Nile," he says. "They are the same type as the ones dated to 2.2 million years."

11


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The logo for Radio Times, featuring the word "Radio" in a large, stylized, white serif font, and the word "Times" in a smaller, white serif font below it, all set against a dark, textured rectangular background.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

No damages in tampon case win

Denver, Colorado. — An 18-year-old girl who suffered a toxic shock syndrome through tampons has won her case against the manufacturer but failed to receive the \$25m (£14m) she claimed as compensation and punitive damages.

A federal jury ruled that the Procter and Gamble company was negligent in its manufacture and sale of a defective product but it awarded no money or medical expenses to Miss Deletha Dawn Lampshire.

The jury said the company had not breached its warranty on its Rely brand tampons which were withdrawn from the market in September 1980, and could not be held for damages.

Malta and Libya improve links

Valletta. — Malta and Libya have ratified their 1976 agreement to take their offshore oil exploration dispute to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

The agreement was a result of the unexpected meeting between Colonel Gaddafi and Mr Don Mintoff ten days ago, which eased the strained relations between the two governments which have existed since 1980. Trade and diplomatic relations are now expected to return to normal.

New bones find in Antarctica

Washington. — Scientists have discovered the first bones of a land mammal in Antarctica, the National Science Foundation said, strengthening the evidence that South America and Antarctica were linked in prehistoric times.

The foundation, which finances and manages American scientific activities in Antarctica, said that the bones of a rat-like mammal were found in a graveyard of strange prehistoric skeletons, which included those of 6ft penguins, a 40ft plesiosaur, (a marine reptile), and a mosasaur, a lizard with paddle-like limbs.

Seven killed in south Lebanon

Sidon. — At least seven people have been killed and 10 injured in clashes between rival militias in the Southern Village of Ayn Qana, travellers said. Security sources said the hostilities were between the Amad Shiite muslim paramilitary organization and supporters of the pro-Iraq Baath Party.

Schmidt's party Loses heavily in Saxony poll

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 21

Herr Helmut Schmidt's strike-ridden Social Democrats (SPD) suffered severe losses in today's lower Saxony Land elections, seen here as an important test of West Germany's political mood.

The first results showed that the Christian Democrats, who hope to take over from the chancellor's frayed 12-year-old coalition as soon as possible, were heading for an absolute majority.

The Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) who fell below the 5 per cent minimum needed for representation last time, seemed assured of seats in the new parliament while the ecological Green Party also looks likely to be represented.

The first computer forecasts, based on about one third of the voting districts, forecast a loss of around 6 per cent for the Chancellor's party from 42 per cent to somewhere around 36.3 per cent. The Christian Democrats, who last time polled 48.7 per cent, won around 51 per cent, so that they will be able to rule without a coalition partner. The Free Democrats were said to have gained more than 2 per cent to achieve 6.7 per cent and the Greens were also up by nearly 2 per cent to 5.7 per cent.

The result could well encourage the Free Democrats to think even harder about leaving the Social Democrats and moving over to form a coalition with the Christian Democrats in Bonn. Political observers have predicted that they could even take the step this year rather than wait for the next Bundestag elections in 1984.

The Lower Saxony poll is the first of four Land elections this year whose results could affect the future of Herr Schmidt's Government.

Apart from the severe psychological blow to the Social Democrats, it could also mean serious trouble for the SPD-FDP coalition in Bonn. The Lower Saxony Christian Democrats could use their vote in the Bundestag, the upper house in Bonn, to block an early increase in value added tax needed to finance the Government's job creation scheme.

The VAT increase was agreed on with great difficulty by the coalition parties and it will be extremely hard for them to find another solution acceptable to both.

The results also amount to a huge personal victory for Herr Erast Albrecht, the popular and successful Lower Saxony Prime Minister, and will strengthen his position as a rival to Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democratic Party chairman, as a future Chancellor.

The results appear to confirm the trend that the SPD are losing the votes of younger people to the Greens and other alternative groups.



Central America flashpoint

Duarte pledge on murdered news team

San Salvador, March 21. — President José Napoleón Duarte has promised to investigate personally the killing of four Dutch journalists on March 17.

He said that he believed an Army report that they died in a clash between left-wing guerrillas and security forces, but he would go to the scene of the killing to conduct his own inquiries. He invited journalists to accompany him.

President Duarte said it was difficult to guarantee the safety of anyone in a country at war — especially journalists who constantly crossed sides. He said that reporters were as much in danger with guerrillas as with the security forces because no one was safe when the two sides shot at each other.

Three Brazilian journalists who said they were shot at by soldiers on Friday left the country yesterday, saying they were frightened to stay.

The President also said that intelligence reports indicated that the guerrillas planned to intensify their activities from Wednesday in an attempt to disrupt the elections next Sunday.

Guerrillas yesterday attacked the town of Triunfo in Usulután, 75 miles east of San Salvador. They killed two civil defence guards and set fire to the town hall, several houses and buses before fleeing, according to military sources.

Guerrillas also cut the important coastal road 50 miles from San Salvador, delaying traffic for several hours. The coastal road and the Pan-American Highway are the only roads running the length of El Salvador.

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—Reuter.

Mount St Helens erupts twice in six hours

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, March 21

After two eruptions of Mount St Helens within six hours, scientists today planned to take a helicopter into the smoldering crater in Vancouver, Washington, to try to estimate how much longer the volcano will continue to throw out ashes.

After the volcano exploded with its second blast of gas and ash yesterday morning, the scientists made an inspection of the crater but dense steam, rising to about 2,500ft, made it impossible to confirm reports of new growth on the crater's lava dome.

Mr Bill Chadwick, of the United States geological survey team said after a visit to the site: "I think, overall this is somewhat in between the explosive eruptions in 1980 and the non-explosive eruptions in 1981."

He said scientists were "in the dark" until they got a look at the dome and saw what happened. It could take until Tuesday before they could answer with confidence, he added.

Mount St Helens erupted in May, 1980, claiming 61 lives. After the last two eruptions, officials fearing that heat from the volcano might cause a rapid melting of snow and serious flooding, ordered the evacuation of more than 70 families living along the Toutle river, north of the volcano.

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Shuttle off today on big venture for science

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The third flight of Columbia, the reusable American spacecraft, is due to start from Cape Canaveral, Fla, at 11.00am today. Although strictly speaking, it is another test flight for the new vehicle, the crew of Colonel Jack Lousma, the mission commander, and his pilot, Colonel Charles Walker, have on board a 215m cargo of scientific equipment.

It consists of none instrument packages designed to yield important information for astronomers, biologists, medical scientists and plasma physicists and for engineers paving the way for future scientific journeys in orbit.

The plan is for a seven-day flight, the longest so far, with a landing at White Sands, New Mexico. The original landing site in California cannot be used because of flooding in the heavy rains.

Another innovation is the first use of the mechanical arm, built in Canada, for lifting a package of experimental apparatus out of the orbiter and into space. The long-term usefulness of the shuttle depends to a large extent on the success of this manipulator arm. So, at 44 hours of work, the arm is beginning with seven hours of tests with the arm unloaded to give the crew experience in controlling its robot-like movements.

The practical application, lasting about 14 hours, will involve maneuvering the group of instruments called the plasma diagnostic package. What that apparatus will do is measure how the orbiter spacecraft interacts with its surroundings in space.

Launch on TV

Independent Television News plans to show a recording of the shuttle launch at 4.14 pm today, 74 minutes after the planned take-off time. In the event of an emergency, however, the ITN pictures may be shown earlier. The BBC also plans to interrupt its normal programmes for the launch.

space. Measurements will be made of electric and magnetic fields within 45ft of the vehicle, the characteristics of electromagnetic waves will be recorded over a broad range of frequencies, and so will the characteristics of an electron beam produced by a special electron gun called a fast pulse generator.

The timetable for operating the robot arm allows 23 hours for thermal testing. On this mission the spacecraft will be exposed to extremes of temperature which have been avoided on previous journeys.

The spacecraft will be subjected to temperatures ranging from 93 degrees centigrade to minus 66 degrees. Under these conditions the hull of Columbia is expected to heat, in some places, to about 2 degrees along its entire length. This is because the vehicle will be extremely hot on one side facing the sun, and bitterly cold on the side in shadow.

In addition to the large scientific payload planned by the Office of Space Science, and hence called OSCS, Columbia has a cylindrical canister, created by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for a new scheme dubbed the "getaway special programme". It is intended to attract more customers to acquire space for their cargo on future flights.

The canister will allow anyone to fly an experiment on the shuttle orbiter, provided the experiment is of a scientific research and development nature.

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... and their sparkling new approach to clothes. Left: DAKS suit in pure new wool, £165. DAKS shirt and tie, £38 and £14.50. Her pullover £75 and bermuda shorts £49, blouse £45. All by Escada, sizes 10-16.

Above right: frilled dress with horizontal pattern, £189; striped dress with sash, £165. Both by Dejavu, sizes 8-14.

Below right: her Invertere raincoat comes in almond green, cream or pale grey, £75, his in grey or ivory, £79.

Extremists climb aboard the Treurnicht wagon

From Michael Hornsby, Pretoria, March 21

The extreme right wing figure to pledge support for Dr Treurnicht at yesterday's rally was Dr Connie Mulder, the disgraced former Information Minister and one-time contender for the premiership. He came to the platform to announce to cheers that his small National Conservative Party, which like the NNP has no parliamentary seats, would be merging with Dr Treurnicht's new party.

Two other small far-right groups also allied themselves with Dr Treurnicht: the Aksies Eie Toekoms (Action Own Future), led by Professor Alkmaar Swart, which advocates the creation of a white "homeland" from the economically most viable parts of South Africa from which all blacks would be banished, and the little-known South Africa First Campaign, an English-speaking group led by Mr Brendan Wilmer.

Scattered among the audience were also members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, an openly fascist, paramilitary organisation, consciously modelled on the Nazi party, which advocates seizure of power by military force failing success by the ballot box.

EEC silver jubilee

Why the champagne is flat

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 21

On March 25, 1957 the European Economic Communities were created with the signing of the Treaty of Rome. This is the first of three articles from Ian Murray in Brussels to mark their first quarter century.

The European Communities celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary this week with about as much enthusiasm as a befeater in a vegetarian restaurant. A minor poster campaign, a few seminars and a jubilee dinner for a couple of hundred celebrities are all there are to mark a quarter of a century of joint European endeavour.

It is embarrassing that the anniversary comes at a time when Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, has just felt himself obliged to warn Europe that it is in danger and when politicians in most member states have been facing p to what they call the worst crisis the EEC has ever known.

Embarrassing though it may be, it is nevertheless appropriate and typical that Europe should be in crisis as it marks up its silver jubilee. To judge by its newspaper image the EEC stumbles from one crisis to the next.

It is, however, true that crisis has, so far, often been creative. Many of the main political initiatives have been taken with the crisis-grip pointed at members heads. As Lord Carrington sadly pointed out last year when he was President of the Council: Europe only ever takes decisions at the last possible moment."

That has been throbproblem which has dogged the Community from its inception: it is not something which arrived ten years ago with Britain. As the 1958 general report complained: "it is unacceptable that important problems should remain unsolved for years on end. There is nothing to be gained by retaining or blocking decisions which will eventually have to be adopted anyway."

All this loss of time has been to no purpose and has profited nobody, and it would have been better to realise that at the start rather than at the end. Can it be hoped that the lesson of these experiences will not be completely wasted in the years ahead?

If Europe is in crisis today, it is precisely because member states have not learnt the lesson of those experiences and continue to refuse to face the facts. It is because the only way Europe can usually solve a major problem is to have a crisis first to concentrate minds. That crisis is always one of

identity, with one or more of the members unwilling to subordinate tangible national interest to the ethereal Community spirit.

Britain is at the centre of the current crisis — and in a way has been at the centre of many of the most difficult crises which Europe has created for itself. The history of the first 25 years of the EEC can be viewed as the battle for the body and soul of Britain. The body was won ten years ago when Britain joined. The battle for the soul is continuing, with British reluctance to pay up and shut up the biggest irritant.

The economic arguments for Britain staying in are well known. Statistics show that United Kingdom trade with EEC partners now accounts for 43 per cent of total exports and provides work for 2 million people. Negotiating replacement trade agreements would be difficult if not impossible.

There are rival statistics and arguments, but they are essentially irrelevant. Even orthodox Labour Party stalwarts admit privately that it would take a three-figure majority at the next election to make Britain out, and there is no other party in Parliament with any intention of leaving.

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Polish journalist braves arrest to attack ban

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 21

Mr Stefan Bratkowski, one of Poland's leading journalists and a prominent Marxist reformer, emerged from hiding this weekend and promptly attacked the decision of the martial law authorities to dissolve the Polish journalists' association.

Mr Bratkowski's appearance after over three months of moving from flat to flat to avoid detention (though it is still not clear whether there is a warrant for his arrest) comes at a time of intense controversy over the role of journalists in Poland. As president of the association during the Solidarity era in 1980-1981, Mr Bratkowski helped to shape it into one of the most radical reformist organizations, constantly urging the authorities to ease censorship and democratize society.

However, the martial law authorities announced on Saturday that they had dissolved the association because some of its leaders "openly sided with undertakings of extremist anti-socialist groupings, going so far as to publish tendentious accusations levelled against state authority".

This is partly a reference to articles that Mr Bratkowski has managed to smuggle out to the West since martial law was imposed. The dissolution came after an obviously orchestrated two-week campaign, during which Communist Party journalists on *Trybuna Ludu*, the party daily, and from television sought the scrapping of the association.

Mr Bratkowski, in a statement made available to *The Times* and another Western reporter, described the dissolution of the union as "the crowning blow in the series of unjustified and illegal repressive actions directed at our profession over the past few months".

Journalists were being subjected to a humiliating process of political vetting, Mr Bratkowski said. The association had, he said, fought against "the brutal exploitation of the mass media as a crude instrument of propaganda".

"Today, those in power have again made propaganda into a crisis-generating element in our society. They are trying to do it through us, journalists and thus destroy the credibility that we managed to build up for the mass media over the past year".

The statement was signed by other leading journalists, including Mr Machiej Szumowski, ousted editor of the *Cracow* party daily.

The decision to dissolve the association has bitterly divided the Polish journalistic community which, along with judges and university teachers, has been one of the most vulnerable under martial law. But Mr Bratkowski has been able to do little more than appeal to his colleagues not to cooperate with any new, neutered journalists' union.

Not to join the new union may well mean journalists being denied jobs and livelihoods, something likely to undermine resistance.

Both sides of the journalistic community — those who support martial law and those who want to continue criticizing it — are due to meet on Tuesday. Mr Bratkowski, though he still evidently fears the possibility of being detained, is expected to attend and argue the case for a press that is relatively independent of Communist Party control.

Mr Bratkowski originally supported the policies of Mr Stanislaw Kania, the former party chief and General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the current leader. However, after a clash between militia and Solidarity in Bydgoszcz a year ago, he and other journalists grew more critical. Eventually, some weeks before martial law was declared, he was thrown out of the Communist Party and the authorities tried briefly to create an alternative journalist union. Both bodies were suspended after December 13.

Sitar and science for Gandhi

By David Cross

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, arrived in London last night for a five-day visit which she hopes will help to foster a better relationship with her country's former colonial masters.

Certainly the occasion for her visit, the opening of a seven-month celebration of India's cultural heritage, should help to focus attention on the positive rather than the negative aspects of the long ties between the two countries. Mrs Gandhi hopes that the many exhibitions showing the arts, sciences and other disciplines will help to make India better understood by the British.

The visit begins with several hours of talks between Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher. The Festival of India is to be launched with a concert at the Festival Hall to be attended by both Prime Ministers.

The programme will include the European premiere of Ravi Shankar's second concerto for the sitar played by the composer. The concert will be followed by a British Government reception.

Tomorrow after talks with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Gandhi will visit a number of exhibitions, including a permanent biographical exhibition of Nehru and a show mainly of sculptures and paintings from the third century BC to the nineteenth century at the Hayward Gallery.

On Wednesday, after a press conference, Mrs Gandhi will lunch with the Queen and open a Science in India exhibition at the Science Museum in Kensington. Thursday and most of Friday will be spent in private.

□ Delhi: A powerful Soviet military delegation has completed a week's visit here, leaving the impression that Moscow is keen to continue as the leading arms supplier to a less-than-eager India.

The picture emerged from official statements, local news reports and comments of Indian officials and foreign diplomats as Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, three deputy ministers and 30 Generals left for Moscow.

An Indian Government statement said that Marshal Ustinov had assured India about the Soviet desire to continue and strengthen cooperation "in the field of supply of defence equipment by the Soviet Union and in the development of defence production industry in India".

Profile, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Export contracts, page 13

Afghanistan two years later



French at the front: Dr Jean-Louis Hermann, a French doctor working for Aide Medicale Internationale, examining a guerrilla fighter in the Loghar region of Afghanistan.

Soviet 'atrocities' condemned by doctors

From Edward Girardet, Paris

For the past year and a half, three French medical organizations have been discreetly operating clandestine relief missions in the mountains and valleys of resistance-held Afghanistan. In recent weeks, they have become increasingly outspoken against what they consider to be atrocities against the civilian population by the Soviet occupation forces.

At present, the Paris-based *Médecins sans Frontières* (MSF), *Aide Médicale Internationale* (AMI) and *Médecins du Monde* (MDM), whose medical teams are active in war zones elsewhere in the world including Cambodia, Kurdistan and El Salvador, are the only Western humanitarian groups to work inside Afghanistan on a permanent basis.

About 25 volunteer men and women, mainly French but with a sprinkling of Belgians and Swiss, are now running clinics, dispensaries and itinerant aid programmes in eight different provinces at any one time for periods of up to six months.

Originally, the French organizations had hoped that by keeping their activities low key, they could avoid provoking the Soviet authorities. But, as the situation has deteriorated, they have been forced to become more vocal.

During the interview on the BBC radio programme *The World This Weekend*, Lord Carrington conceded that Western diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not had the desired effect of forcing a withdrawal of its armed forces. Some 90,000 Soviet troops remained in the country.

But he was confident that the sharp reaction in the United Nations, where 116 countries had condemned the Soviet intervention, had acted as a brake on the Soviet Union in Poland. The Western proposal to ask for a Soviet withdrawal and designate Afghanistan as neutral territory remained on the table, he said.

He said he hoped that a combination of continuing diplomatic pressures on the Soviet Union and the unflagging guerrilla war in Afghanistan would eventually force Moscow to change its mind.

He pointed out that the Afghan insurgents were not asking for arms supplies although he declined to say which countries were providing them.

In Brussels, the need for political support for the people of Afghanistan was emphasized by Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, in a statement to mark the first "Afghanistan Day." He said that all countries who subscribe to the principles of freedom and self-determination for the Afghan people should use their influence to and the Soviet interference in the country.

Afghanistan Day, an idea suggested by the European Parliament, won support from President Reagan earlier this month.

In Delhi, about 500 Afghan refugees held a two-hour demonstration outside the Soviet Embassy. Some refugees later joined an anti-Soviet rally organized by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. A declaration by the organization to mark Afghanistan Day regretted that the international community was a "silent spectator" of events in Afghanistan.

In neighbouring Pakistan, where 2.6 million Afghan refugees have fled, special radio and television programmes were broadcast and Afghan insurgent groups held rallies denouncing the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In Moscow, the Soviet press called the West's observance of Afghanistan Day an "infamous spectacle" and accused the United States and Pakistan of doing all they could to prevent a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Soviet reports from Kabul spoke of 100,000 demonstrators taking part in a protest meeting outside the American Embassy and quoted Afghan politicians and clergy condemning Afghanistan Day as outright support for counter-revolution.

According to Tass, President Brezhnev told a party conference that Washington expressed "vital concern for the Afghan people but this showed itself in the violation of international law, encouragement of terrorism, interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the attempt to aggravate tension in the region."

But he asserted that in spite of rebel attacks, important social and economic changes had been carried out since the 1978 revolution which brought the Marxists to power.

during an 11-day sweep in early February by mainly Soviet troops in Kohistan at the mouth of the Panjshir valley. According to Marie-Paul Solleir, an AMI nurse, local resistance leaders and guerrillas had told them that more than 1,000 civilians and guerrillas had been killed including at least 400 Afghans executed by the Russians. She said that according to the report they had recovered "most of them" were machine-gunned by they also took 15 white-bearded old men from a village called Bulareh, doused them with petrol and burned them.

With most Afghan doctors having fled the country or living in the communist-occupied towns, perhaps as many as eight million Afghans in the resistance-held regions are forced to rely on this small, scattered handful of foreign doctors for medical care.

Relying primarily on public donations for support, the organizations are trying to send more missions to Afghanistan. At the moment there are no British doctors working inside Afghanistan but the French have been keen to combine efforts with other countries.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Tremors in Japan and Italy

An earthquake in Japan has injured at least 80 people and in southern Italy thousands panicked after strong tremors struck the region.

Six of the Japanese casualties were seriously hurt when a severe earthquake shook Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.

The tremor, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, disrupted rail services for three hours.

In southern Italy the strong tremors sent thousands of people fleeing panic-stricken into the streets throughout the region. The area was devastated by earthquakes in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

Moscow — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Soviet Politburo, was named among Kremlin officials who signed an obituary for a wartime hero, thereby ending speculation that he may have been dropped from the party leadership.

Mr Kirilenko has appeared in public only once in the past six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Some Soviet sources say that the 75-year-old politician, who was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, has been unwell for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

Wander Lake, Illinois — Search crews, crossing snowy fields on foot and horseback have recovered the bodies of all 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night.

Those killed were the four crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital

Salisbury — Mrs Sally Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than two months in a London Hospital being treated for a kidney condition.

Mrs Mugabe was met at the Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the return journey.

Disease slows Danish exports

Copenhagen — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot and mouth disease reported at the Danish island of Funen (Christopher Follett writes). About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports — largely pork — are affected.

There were no difficulties over meat exports to EEC countries, in particular Britain, Denmark's biggest customer.

Khomeini takes a 10-day rest

Tehran — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a 10-day rest from all official duties. Iran state radio reported.

The ayatollah, who is 62 and has a heart condition, tried to take a break last month. He returned to public life after 10 days when there was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

Bandaranaike party rift healed

Colombo — With the prospect of general elections or a presidential election this year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, resolved their differences and Mr Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth the Sri Lanka Freedom Party will be one indivisible unit under my leadership."

Liberia's security chief dismissed

Monrovia — Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service and a senior government accountant for the alleged embezzlement of public funds.

The Liberian leader, who is the army commander, will supervise security services.

Western pressure failed to shift Russia

By Our Foreign Staff

The West must never allow the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan to be forgotten, Lord Carrington said yesterday.

After the Soviet invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the world had gradually come to accept the situation in these countries as normal, he told a radio interviewer. But with Afghanistan, the world must continually bear in mind that the situation was unacceptable and do what it could to turn it round.

During the interview on the BBC radio programme *The World This Weekend*, Lord Carrington conceded that Western diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not had the desired effect of forcing a withdrawal of its armed forces. Some 90,000 Soviet troops remained in the country.

But he was confident that the sharp reaction in the United Nations, where 116 countries had condemned the Soviet intervention, had acted as a brake on the Soviet Union in Poland. The Western proposal to ask for a Soviet withdrawal and designate Afghanistan as neutral territory remained on the table, he said.

He said he hoped that a combination of continuing diplomatic pressures on the Soviet Union and the unflagging guerrilla war in Afghanistan would eventually force Moscow to change its mind.

He pointed out that the Afghan insurgents were not asking for arms supplies although he declined to say which countries were providing them.

In Brussels, the need for political support for the people of Afghanistan was emphasized by Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, in a statement to mark the first "Afghanistan Day." He said that all countries who subscribe to the principles of freedom and self-determination for the Afghan people should use their influence to and the Soviet interference in the country.

Afghanistan Day, an idea suggested by the European Parliament, won support from President Reagan earlier this month.

In Delhi, about 500 Afghan refugees held a two-hour demonstration outside the Soviet Embassy. Some refugees later joined an anti-Soviet rally organized by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. A declaration by the organization to mark Afghanistan Day regretted that the international community was a "silent spectator" of events in Afghanistan.

In neighbouring Pakistan, where 2.6 million Afghan refugees have fled, special radio and television programmes were broadcast and Afghan insurgent groups held rallies denouncing the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In Moscow, the Soviet press called the West's observance of Afghanistan Day an "infamous spectacle" and accused the United States and Pakistan of doing all they could to prevent a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Soviet reports from Kabul spoke of 100,000 demonstrators taking part in a protest meeting outside the American Embassy and quoted Afghan politicians and clergy condemning Afghanistan Day as outright support for counter-revolution.

According to Tass, President Brezhnev told a party conference that Washington expressed "vital concern for the Afghan people but this showed itself in the violation of international law, encouragement of terrorism, interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the attempt to aggravate tension in the region."

But he asserted that in spite of rebel attacks, important social and economic changes had been carried out since the 1978 revolution which brought the Marxists to power.

Khmers slip away as Vietnamese advance

From David Watts Singapore, March 21

The Vietnamese Army has occupied two of the principle nationalist resistance villages in Cambodia, as its dry season offensive approaches a climax.

Fighters of Mr Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) have melted away into the jungle in the face of the advancing Vietnamese, who had previously concentrated on the Khmer Rouge in their biggest operation since they entered the country in 1979.

The KPNLF claim that casualties from the villages of Sokh Sann One and Two have been minimal since Vietnamese forces moved into the main concentrations of Mr Sann's followers, centred on four villages, in the early hours of Thursday. Confirmation of the attack and occupation came only at the weekend. The area is closed to foreign journalists, and a spokesman for the KPNLF hinted that even Cambodians have been prevented from going to the area by the Thai military.

The Vietnamese operation has forced about 8,000 Cambodian civilians to flee the two villages. Some 500 are thought to have escaped into Thailand. The KPNLF reported one dead and more than a dozen wounded.

Since the middle of January, the Vietnamese have been staging a large-scale pincer movement, using their 75 and 9 divisions to squeeze Khmer Rouge positions in the region of Phnom Penh. Until the latter half of last week there had been no attacks on KPNLF forces, which are a much less effective military force than the Khmer Rouge.

In contrast to the fighting against the KPNLF, it appears that the fighting against the Khmer Rouge has been costly to both sides. The Vietnamese, struggling against the Khmer Rouge's well-fortified mountain strongholds, have suffered as many as 1,500 dead and wounded, and lost seven tanks, while one Western analyst estimates that the Khmer Rouge have lost 600 dead and wounded.

The KPNLF said they had lost little in the way of equipment in the Vietnamese attack, since they had managed to get most of the weapons and ammunitions out.

Infiltrators blamed for riots in Jakarta

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, March 21

Admiral Sudomo, the Indonesian head of security, today blamed the pro-Golkar Party for lack of security at a rally on Thursday which erupted into violence and arson leaving at least 60 people injured and scores of cars burning. But he said the general election campaign would continue.

Admiral Sudomo, giving his first briefing to the foreign press since the riots, said that the authorities had discovered that a group of about 100 Muslim Party supporters had infiltrated the rally in Benteng Square, Central Jakarta, carrying stones and wearing Golkar tee-shirts. However, after interrogation of the 240 arrested, some of them school children, the people who started the riot had not yet been identified.

"Golkar took no security measures at all", Admiral Sudomo said. The PPP (Muslim Development Party) rally on Monday was peaceful. Thursday's riots were a small wave in a big ocean and what happened in Jakarta was not a reflection of the situation throughout Indonesia.

The situation in the provinces outside Jakarta was generally quiet with a "Predictable" number of Golkar Party posters being torn down and mutilated. The campaign would continue and mass rallies would not be banned, he said. "If we did ban them, the opposition would accuse us of using the incident of being non-democratic."

However, future rallies in Jakarta would be held in a sports stadium — not in public squares — and it was possible that the Government would consider the advisability of mass rallies during future general election campaigns.

He continued to deny reports of deaths during the rioting, claiming that such reports were "rumours spread for political purposes".

Admiral Sudomo said the infiltrators were from Jakarta, not outside the city, that they were Muslim Party supporters but not members of the Muslim Party which last year carried Jakarta in the elections. The intent he said was to "destabilize the Government".

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Tremors hit Japan and Italy

1. earthquake in Japan injured at least 80 people in southern Italy. The tremors struck the region. x of the Japanese case. s were seriously hurt. n a severe earthquake. k Japan's northernmost. d of Hokkaido. e tremor, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, caused landslip which disrupted services for three hours. southern Italy the is of people fleeing panic. ken into the streets. oughout the region. The was devastated by em. es in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

1. Moscow. — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Politburo, was named as the Kremlin official who had an obituary for a time hero, thereby making a prediction in the West that he may have been dropped from the party leadership. Mr Kirilenko has appeared in public only once in the last six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Some Soviet sources say he is a 75-year-old politician who was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, but has been unwell for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

1. Wonder Lake, Illinois. — Search crews, crossing swampy lands on foot and horseback, have recovered the bodies of 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night. Those killed were the crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital

1. Salisbury. — Mrs Sibusiso Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than 10 months in a London hospital, being treated for a kidney condition. Mrs Mugabe was met at Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. In Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the return journey.

1. Copenhagen. — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot and mouth disease reported from the Danish island of Funen. (Christopher Follett writes) About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports are affected. There were no difficulties over meat exports to 10 countries in particular. Britain, Denmark's largest customer.

Disease slows Danish exports

1. Tehran. — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a holiday from all official duties. The announcement came after a heart condition and his health broke. He tried to take a holiday for a month. He returned to his life after 10 days when there was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

Khomeini takes a 10-day rest

1. Colombo. — With the prospect of general elections next year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Kumara Bandaranaike, resolved their differences and Mrs Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth we will be one and indivisible in our leadership."

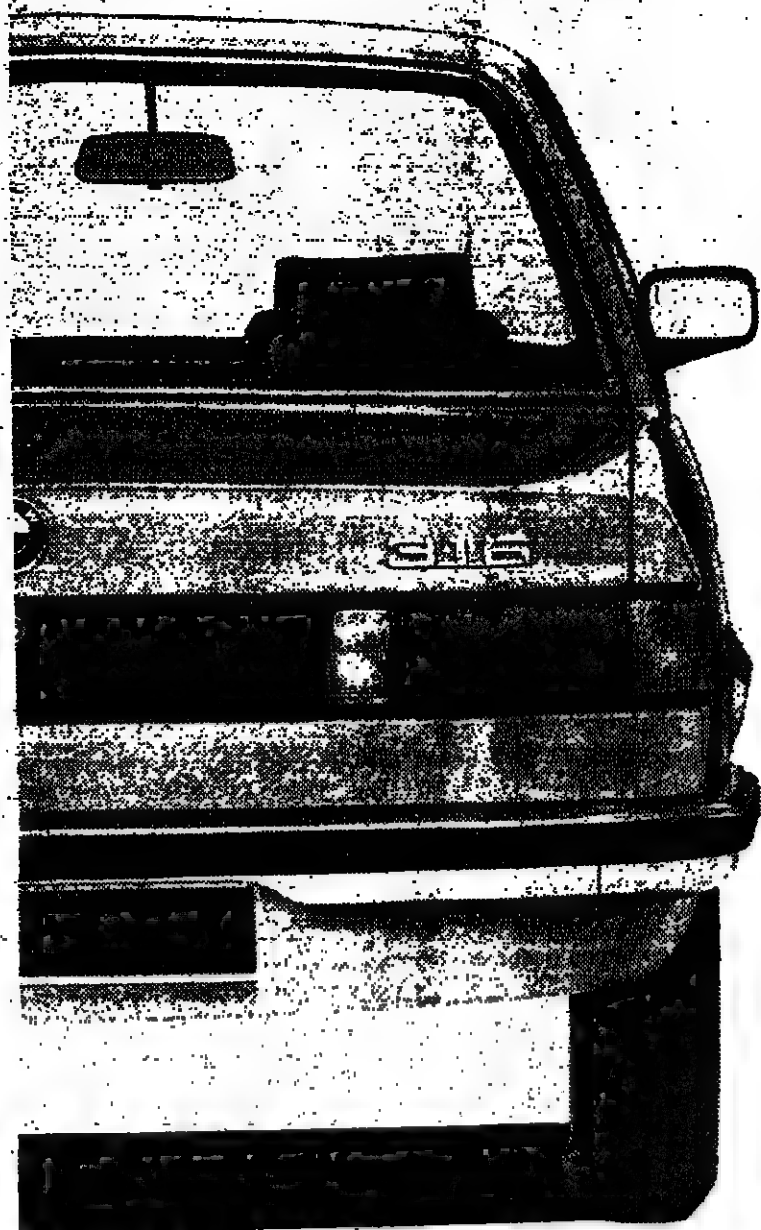
Bandaranaike party rift healed

1. Monrovia. — Samuel Doe, Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service, a senior government official, for alleged embezzlement of public funds. Doe, a Liberian leader, who is also the army commander, will supervise security services.

Liberia's security chief dismissed

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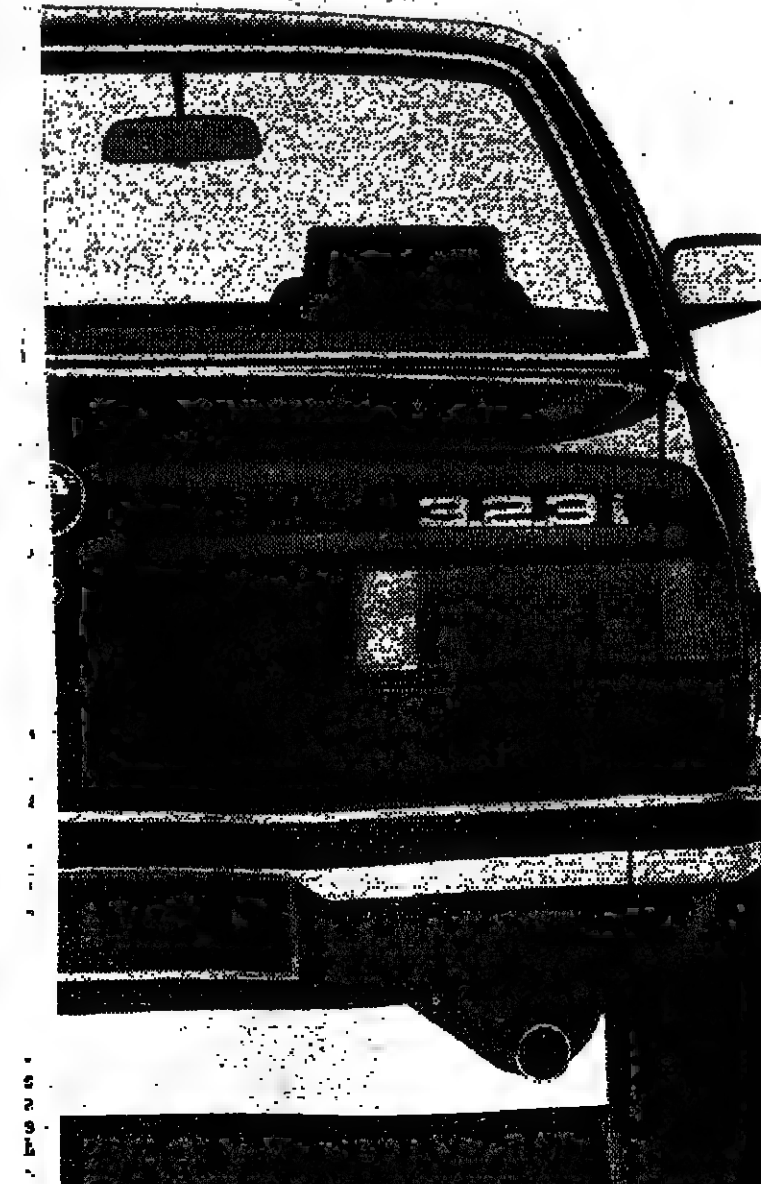
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THE ARTS

Opera
Lyrical
graces

Adriano in Siria

Logan Hall/Radio 3

The only operatically inclined member of the Bach family was Johann Christian, J. S. Bach's youngest son, who studied in Italy and settled in England, where he died just 20 years ago. Camden Festival and the BBC commemorated his bicentenary by putting on a concert performance of his *Adriano in Siria*, given in London in 1764 and until lately — when a copy turned up in Lisbon — assumed to survive only in incomplete form. Barring some obscure Lisbon revival, it seems safe to reckon Saturday's performance its first since 1765.

It ought not to be its last. *Adriano in Siria* is an uncommonly attractive work, not because of any special dramatic power, but because the music is so beautifully written, so warm-hearted, so beguilingly lyrical and graceful. It is exquisitely scored, and in some original ways there are a couple of arias, for example, with strings, two prominent bassoons, and several with clariets (Mozart did not use the clarinet until nine years later). The whole score is more elaborate, orchestrally and harmonically, than the generally of Italian operas of the time, which explains both why Bach's were not particularly successful with the public and intensely influential on Mozart.

Dramatic, however, they are not, or not often. *Adriano* is a setting of a long-popular Metastasio libretto, simplified for English audiences, flares up briefly near the end of the second act, where the Emperor Hadrian has a tremendous outburst of rage and his three children respond in a superb trio. Otherwise one sometimes feels that his situations are too urbanely handled: the heroine, Emira, hardly even reaches for our heart-strings when she sings of suffering a cruel fate, and the song about constancy, hope and kindness is virtuosic coloratura piece.

But it should be said that Saturday's performance did the music's emotion, poor justice. Sir Charles Mackerras seemed bent on imparting a certain jauntiness, whether appropriate or not, apart from Emira's minuet, which he dragged, he was inclined to push the opera along too quickly and too gaily to let it speak in its true voice. And much attention was lavished on the luxury of ornamentation when necessities like style, expression, words and even notes could have merited more care.

Plenty of praise, however, for Margaret Cable's assured, purposeful Hadrian. Marie Storch was a careful, musical, slightly pale Emira; Ryland Davies made a sturdy, lyrical, mostly stylish Parthian king, Mureen Leane, a late substitute in the *prima* *uovo* role, struggled for notes and pitch, with mixed success, but tried a lot of ornamentation. Eiddwen Harby and Marilyn Hill-Smith did well in smaller roles. The BBC Concert Orchestra were not always quite equal to the score's felicities. **Stanley Sadie**

Problems, prospects, promises . . .

John Percival investigates
the state of British danceCinderella —
the ballet

Settling the dispute over contracts for the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet Orchestra has solved the most immediate of the problems facing British ballet, but it would be a mistake to imagine that all is now for the best in the best of all worlds.

There is, for instance, the little problem that, since January 1, the Arts Council's dance advisory panel has been without a chairman and, consequently, without a voice either on the council itself or on other vital committees. Noel Goodwin, the former chairman, was one of the less publicized victims of Mr Paul Channon's decision, as Minister for the Arts, not to renew the membership of office-holders as had been done in the past.

Some cynics thought that Goodwin had been sacked merely to make the simultaneous departure of Richard Hoggart more easily defensible. Others wondered whether it might foreshadow an intention to cut back the dance department after its success this year in maintaining its allocation, in real terms, while other spheres of activity received ostensible increases which, thanks to inflation, were really reductions.

Last week it was announced that the television director Colin Nears has been appointed to succeed Goodwin. The dance panel is lucky to find another chairman who is dedicated and knowledgeable.

The best that can be hoped for is that dance will hold its present share of available funds, which the dance panel pointed out recently in a discussion document — one of the first fruits of an Arts Council move towards greater public accountability — will still leave dancers and choreographers underpaid by comparison with musicians and composers, although their skill is as great, and their training as arduous, and their careers are often shorter. Putting the poor dancers on short commons has been one of the traditional, although usually unmentioned, ways of paying for the arts in this country.

That is unlikely to change while the present economic problems remain. But there are things that could be done to improve matters for them and their audiences simply by making better use of what resources are available. It is absurd and intolerable, for instance, that English dance companies can tour freely in Scotland, supported by public funds, while the Scottish Ballet's subvention

must not be spent on travelling south of the border. That makes the Scottish dancers understandably resentful.

It is the more absurd at a time when refurbishing old theatres has much improved facilities for touring in England, Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham have all benefited in that way, and there are plans to give Wales another good theatre by rebuilding the Grand at Swansea.

Where there is a serious need for a better home for dance is, surprisingly, London. Sadler's Wells is doing a fine job within its physical limitations, but it desperately needs a larger stage, to enable it to provide comfortably for the medium-sized companies. Really big companies have to compete for the few weeks a year when Covent Garden, the Coliseum, the Dominion or the far from ideal Festival Hall are available.

Providing a dance theatre in London, where ballet companies would no longer take second place to opera, films or concerts, would not only bring more overseas companies to Britain (benefiting our own choreographers and dancers, as well as audiences), but would allow local companies to dance more frequently, thus making better use of the dancers and the available repertory.

One company which could gain a lot from a more regular London home is Festival Ballet, but in their case greater exposure might draw attention to an underlying problem which may best be defined as a severe identity crisis. Their main new production this year is another *Swan Lake*; other works being given during the next few months are *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Coppelia*; all are being given also by the Royal Ballet.

True, they have different productions, and in some instances Festival offer the better version, but it cannot be healthy to have quite so large an overlap. The trouble is that the year, Festival have not been very lucky with their creations, nor very sensible in the choice of works they have bought in from the international repertory.

It is a problem the present director, John Field, inherited, and he has at least made some progress, steadily up. Already it has reached 40: no great age for most

Television

An irresistible enthusiasm

It is a kind of emancipation to see someone on television without awe for the medium, for the studio has an awe-laden dynamic. Most people entranced there find it contagious and are not quite themselves. Perhaps Brendan Behan put it best when asked in an interview whether he was ashamed of having been seen drunk in a previous one: "I'm not at Mass when I'm on this thing," he replied.

This reassuring perspective was very much a part of Peter Maxwell Davies's uninhibited appearance with Melvyn Bragg in *The Musical House that Max Built* on the South Bank Show (LWT) last night. Mr Bragg himself appeared to enjoy it.

Maxwell Davies, who has been hailed as a major force for modern music and condemned as incomprehensible, has not been inflated by the first experience or deflated by the second. A stringy, bright-eyed man or electric energy, he is firm in his convictions, articulate in their support and manifestly delighted by his lot. "I like," he said, "living dangerously at the edge of my musical proficiency." I found his enthusiasm irresistible. It must surely contribute to his reputation as a teacher.

The programme was more enjoyable because the producer-director, Brian Izzard, belongs to the "major force" school of opinion so that nothing was spared to put the composer's case. We saw a series of specially prepared performances of excerpts from his work, including his second symphony, his opera *Taverner and Eight Songs for a Mad King*. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the chamber ensemble *The Fires of London*, a choir of Benedictine monks from Douai and Ealing, and an Orkney infants' school supported as appropriate.

Between these excellently staged performances, Maxwell Davies made his points. Considering his music is so often misunderstood, he seemed incongruous that his decision at the age of eight to become a composer was made after hearing a performance of *The Gondoliers*. Having made it, he was unstoppable, his ambition rising above an early put-down from the headmaster of his grammar school in Leigh. When Maxwell Davies asked if he might take a music O-level, the gentleman replied: "This is not a girl's school."

So he took his music examinations extra-murally, went on to Manchester University and the Royal Northern College, and travelled abroad. A prolific as well as controversial composer, he lives in isolation in a cottage on an Orkney cliff which prohibits the delivery of a piano but where he managed to intro-



Maxwell Davies: articulate delight

duce a clavichord, to aid the resolution of the music he hears. Electricity was installed no more than two years ago.

He descends to be Piped Piper to the local children and pursues his work as a music educationist. He was good-humoured with Mr Bragg, who remarked that a lot of his pieces stretched people's tolerance in many ways, but sharp with a music critic who said that Maxwell Davies's transformations required that to lose one's place was to be at all sea. His transformations, said Maxwell Davies, were less complex than any of Beethoven's. Turning to Mr Bragg he added: "He's just not hearing anything of my music." He sounded more incredulous than disappointed.

It was hard to watch Saturday's Open Door pro-

gramme on BBC 2: hard because it was presented by Chris Davies, who is disabled by cerebral palsy. The painfulness of watching brought home the truth of his case: that we isolate the disabled by separate education, imprecise laws and social deprivation, and that we as well as they lose humanity by this.

Attitudes — *The Second Handicap* was the title and Mr Davies made the enormity of the attitudes of the able abundantly plain, so much so that the programme, which used a split screen for captions and sign language, hardly needed the extension of a discussion panel. It was made in the interests of ending discrimination with the assistance of the Community Programme Unit who, come to think of it, also show a worthy lack of awe.

Dennis Hackett

Concerts

ECO/Leppard

Barbican Hall

Although in line with the Barbican Centre's apparently conservative programming policies, the English Chamber Orchestra's concert on Friday, being entirely of Bach, was inevitably interesting. For charm, there was a beautifully simple performance from Felicity Lott of the *Wedding Cantata*, BWV202, with Raymond Leppard presiding from the harpsichord with his customary regal yet vivacious command. Bach's resourcefulness manifested itself with Neil Black's oboe coyly characterizing domestic intimacy in one aria, Graham Sheen's bassoon representing Phobos in a fervent semiquaver chase of love in another. Elsewhere, love's tenderness just had to be Jose Luis Garcia's sweetly singing violin.

An acute problem of balance in this acoustic marred the quirky Concerto for Flute, violin and harpsichord, BWV1044, where Mr Leppard's instrument was unable to capitalize on the chances

offered by a pared-down, almost whispering orchestra. Some judicious pizzicatos added a light zest to the accompanying parts, but the players, poking with properly hesitant courage at the angular lines of the fugue-derived finale. But even in the central Adagio, lifted from an organ sonata and scored for soloists alone, the penetration of flute and violin and the muffled sound of the harpsichord made the music seem loquacious.

With harpsichord now supported precariously by a pile of telephone directories, the intimate music of the fourth Brandenburg Concerto seemed altogether too physically distant to reveal whether the players had discovered the secrets of Bach's perfectly balanced spider's web of counterpoint. Despite a stiff and stately Adagio, the playing of the flautists Richard Adeney and Christopher Nicolls, and Mr Garcia's easy athleticism in the violin part, ensured crisp fast movements, the rising fourths of the finale's strettos signalled like a reveille.

Stephen Pettitt

Melos Quartet

Wigmore Hall

As a reminder that they were appearing in Wigmore Hall's current Russian series, the Melos Quartet of Stuttgart (quartet 1960) as centrepiece on Saturday night, giving a fine enough performance to explain why the hall was sold out.

It is music of protest and despair, as tell-tale as Shostakovich's own ravaged face. Questions from earlier works abound, with the personal significance of the statement underlined by obsessive use of the four-note motto derived from the musical letters of his own name. For the grave, interlinked flanking movements the team found the right intensity without allowing the tempo to drag, in the first they most sensitively conveyed the suggestion of smiling through tears. Their weight of tone was as valuable as their bite and drive in the violent Allegro molto. The sinister innuendoes of the waltz were caught in piquant accentuation and variety of colour. The penultimate Largo, where in quotations the composer most patently bares his heart, was exquisitely balanced.

In Mozart's G major Quartet, K397, the group seemed less poised. Too much elegance was sacrificed in emphasizing the work's virility and dynamic vagaries. Even their tone (not least the leader's in the slow movement) sounded insufficiently silken.

After the interval they

Theatre

Ulrike

Cumbernauld

The Screens

Glasgow Citizens

By dint of minor theatrical scandals presented to the community of Cumbernauld, the new town outside Glasgow, John Baraldi has established the newly professional Cumbernauld Theatre as an aggressive presence in Scottish arts. There is something suspicious about controversy that arises from an injection of nudity into Joe Orton, an event which provoked the last round of headlines, but there is more substantial and significant risk-taking in the new production, an investigation of the terrorist Ulrike Meinhof by Edward Boyd.

Mr Boyd is the respected writer whose earlier work included *Hennessey*, the Rod Steiger film about an attempted assassination of the Queen. In *Ulrike* his material is as hot and dangerous as that earlier fantasy about the IRA, with the difference being the reality of his subject. His attempt to compact Meinhof's radical career with Germany's Red Army Faction into two short acts topples through the abundance of detail, creating instead a collage of biographical images.

At the core of this play is the image of Meinhof in her solitary cell, psychologically tormented by constant light, day and night, in a stark white room with television cameras transmitting her every move. That makes a powerful and suggestive centre for the jumble of voices and figures which surround her, reeling off libels, accusations and family history, and indulging in white-faced mime acts and slapstick.

Mr Baraldi's directorial pyrotechnics are frenetic and diversionary and the use of white-face for all the company except Meinhof is a conceit too fey to be as funny, or as ominous, as he intends. He also encourages Mary Duddy, as Meinhof, to act from her hips and project hysteria, thus devaluing the supposed suicide that four years of harsh isolation provoked.

Yet there is no agitational simplification in the text and Meinhof's fear of inherited madness is eerily suggested by a figure, representing her mad ancestor, the poet Hölderlin, silently dancing through the theatre. Unfortunately, the production fails to open up her character as it busily moves through the styles.

At the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre, Robert David MacDonald and Philip Prowse complete their reconstruction of Jean Genet's three major plays with a remarkable production of *The Screens*. Mr MacDonald has cut the bulky text down to a single strand of Genet's oblique parable about human freedom, challengingly set in apparent support of the Algerian war of independence. The splendid lyricism of the translation brings the war to Britain by the simple and inspired device of making the Arabs speak Irish-English.

It is a device which awakens much dormant humour and connects viscerally to the violence it makes the religious faith, fatalism and conviction comprehensible and it allows the language to sing. The focus of Mr MacDonald's fragment is on the thief, Said, on his wife and on the thief's mother, powerfully portrayed by Jane Bertish.

Remarkably where acting used to be a contentious part of Citizens' productions, it now shows a depth of invention and assurance that fills the typically inspired stage pictures produced by Mr Prowse's design and direction. From a scuttling mass of Arabs, soldiers and chairs on the sandy stage floor, there suddenly arise individuals who give chilling and comical life to Genet's fierce ideas. None is more dominant than Miss Bertish, or Johanna Kirby's Leila — a performance of great force projected entirely from the eyes in her otherwise hidden face.

Joan Chissell

Ned Chaillet

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NEW GALLERY, DUNSTON, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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Empress Indira, secure but suspicious

Last night Mrs Gandhi arrived in London to open the Festival of India. Trevor Fishlock profiles the woman who rules a fifth of the world's population.

Mrs Gandhi likes Britain. There are scars but no residue of bitterness from the independence struggle whose turmoil filled her life and helped stoke tensions in the extraordinary family that shaped her.

When she first went to Britain as a young woman she was already committed to the struggle, and to the sari, the largely waterworn dress she had worn since her family having burnt their western clothes on a nationalist pyre years before. She herself had cremated a doll, beloved but British.

She studied at Oxford, and was courted in London by her future husband, Feroze Gandhi, before returning to India in 1941. The following year, to her relief, she was arrested at gunpoint by a British police sergeant and jailed, thereby earning freedom fighter colours. Her flower-like fragility led the prison doctor to prescribe her Ovaltine, but the spiteful prison superintendent ensured she did not get it.

The frail shy girl of the 1940s is now a resilient flyweight of 64, 5ft 3in and 7st 7lb. Prime Minister, mother figure and empress to 700 millions, a fifth of the world.

Like Mrs Thatcher, Mrs Gandhi has immense stamina. She works to the small hours and rises with the dawn chorus at No. 1 Safdarjung Road in Delhi. She is a sparring but not a westerner, with a liking for Italian cooking, a teetotaler with no objection to others drinking, her trimness aided by daily yoga and her calm by flower arranging.

By nature she is restrained, introspective in the way of many Kashmiri Brahmins. Her large eyes have a melancholic quality. She is never wroth, never suffused with adrenalin, and rarely shows ire.

Her persona is the snub, a regal chilling silence. Her silences, as could be testified by ex-President Nixon, whom she disliked, can be disconcerting. More than one political or press interviewer has foundered by her monosyllabic answers. She is careful with words, as if words, like people, may betray her.

Her personality is marked by suspicion and insecurity, which stem from her experience in politics and an expectation that people will disappoint or try to use her. More deeply, they are the product of an anxious childhood with an adored mother, who died young, and an emotionally butted-out and often absent father. Her marriage did not bloom. She became her father's hostess and was apart from her husband, a journalist and MP, who died in 1960.

Her experience has made her a loner. She is reticent, watchful, mistrustful, resentful of criticism, passionately determined to be independent and always in command, finding difficulty in making friends.

She has seen to it that her collaborators do not grow powerful. She does not quarry the seam of Indian ability she rightly boasts of. The Congress, no longer a movement, barely a party, offers no avenues for challengers. In foreign policy, too, she holds the cards. She could say with some truth, in a language she speaks well, "L'Inde, c'est moi".

She travels widely with her father and prides on his talks with other leaders. But she does not possess his dreamy idealism, being more hard-headed. "She has few peers," Henry Kissinger wrote, "in the coldblooded calculation of the elements of power".

India has for years been a staunch non-crie of the Russians, but Mrs Gandhi wants to disabuse the world of the notion that Russia's arm is round her shoulder. The relationship is strong, and Russia is India's biggest arms supplier.

But Mrs Gandhi was made anxious by the occupation of Afghanistan, a catalyst of regional tensions, and she seems to want to establish a certain distance.

In search of balance she wants better relations with European countries. She needs the West more because she needs the money. The complex relationship with Britain is good and she feels an affinity with France's prickly independence.

She would like a better relationship with the United States. Relations at present are still soured by early mistakes and perceptions, the ego-clash of two huge countries, and in belief that the US wanted India as a neatly labelled Indian, Indian self-righteousness and American ignorance.

At home her independence is complete. No one challenges her. No one says she must go. The only opposition, as she says, is the press; and that is small, although ministers tut about its "failure to give the correct picture". Political opposition is disarrayed.

Her relationship with the multitudes is secure, and she works at it. Like her father she is good with crowds and derives sustenance from encounters with them.

Caricaturists show her scowling, but many Indians, and visitors who meet her, are enchanted by her presence and radiant smile. She travels widely, keeping in touch, and must be the most photographed woman in the world. Every morning she sets aside time to meet hundreds of ordinary people at her home.

She presided over the years in which India moved from the euphoric freedom era into a more complex age. There are many Indians who feel disappointed that so much hope and promise seems to have been dashed by poverty, violence and corruption.

The middle classes grow restless with rising costs; civil servants are corrupt because they do not earn enough; there is a chronic power shortage; people eat in restaurants and buy cars in defiance of their poverty. There is no shortage of criticism in India, and disappointment is reposed at the feet of Mrs Gandhi, along with the tributes of the sycophants.

Advances in agriculture, irrigation, and industry only go so far, her critics say. Now that she is secure, where is the broader vision, social reform, the pursuit of justice, war on corruption, the strengthening of institutions, population control?

Mrs Gandhi is a politician and a politician she does not have a political philosophy, as she has said. She has spent much time on securing her leadership, and less on evaluating problems, ordering priorities and the uses of power. Her lack of framework may account, in part, for her indecision.

Her son Rajiv, her ombudsman and confidant, is now an integral part of her court. Some Indians resent the idea of succession through the house of Nehru. Others are phlegmatic. After all, the people threw his mother out of power.

They are unlikely to do it again. In a country where symbols are important she provides a sense of nationalism, of India united, of the past, of present strength and continuity. For many millions it is enough.

Dear Sir Keith

On February 5 in these columns I wrote you an open letter about the Government's policy towards the universities. On February 10 you graciously published a reasoned reply. In the light of that, I believe it is in the public interest that the debate continue. My fundamental premise is that the enforced decline in student numbers — in contrast to the cuts in cash — is profoundly against the public interest.

We need a new policy to distribute cash among individual universities more or less according to the existing University Grants Commission pattern while allowing student numbers at each institution to find a natural level without artificial increases in entrance standards. One way of doing this is by salary restraint, and I very much hope my colleagues will take advantage of your promise that money saved by salary restraint will not be clawed back by the Treasury (a prospect which has not, unfortunately, been improved by more recent news of inflation in the public sector).

Another way is by a decline in the staff:student ratio. The staff:student ratio in British universities is something of a sacred cow, protected by the UGC in its duty to defend quality, and by the academic scientific establishment, which often argues as if research will grind to a halt if the typical physics or chemistry department has to teach one more student. It must surely be possible to achieve a moderate reduction in the average staff:student ratio without such devastating consequences.

I know academic departments around the world who do a lot of

good teaching and research. I know others where the situation is somewhat opposite. If individual universities and colleges were left to work out their own salvation I am sure most would adjust to a rational balance between teaching and research that would serve the national interest adequately. Clearly, however, the UGC would need to retain the power to intervene against blatantly irresponsible behaviour by individual institutions.

Another way to reduce the public expenditure cost of higher education is by freezing the total cash available for student maintenance grants. Here is a plan for doing this. I do not like it very much because I like the present system, but it is better than cutting student numbers.

I suggest that a proportion of the existing cash total (how much I cannot estimate because I do not have the necessary data) be reserved for students whose parents are at the bottom end of the income scale; these students would continue to receive full grant. The remaining sum, whatever it turned out to be, would be divided among the remaining students in some reasonably equitable fashion: the total cash being fixed, the more students who gained places, the less on average for each.

The effect would be that no student would know their prospective grant until it had been determined whether or not they fell in the protected group, and that among the non-protected group the actual grant would be known until it was clear how many had applied.

When a student eventually received a grant less than she, he

As the future of the University of Ulster is put in doubt, Robin Marris writes again to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, asking him to rethink his policy on university spending.

or the parents felt was needed, they would have to decide whether to look for other sources of finance or not to go to college.

If this all sounds like a horrible process to the British, I can assure my compatriots that it is precisely the process undergone by hundreds of thousands of United States students every year.

There are, however, serious problems in the way of any attempt to plant American methods of student finance on existing British soil. Only a small proportion of US undergraduates are able to find full finance in the form of pure grants or scholarships.

Many have to be entirely supported by their parents or by other means. One of these is the American scheme known as the Pell Grant. The American scheme is so different from Britain in this way that almost a social revolution would be required to adopt it here. I confess, also, that I am not hugely enthusiastic about it. But it is certainly efficient. A large proportion of casual jobs on American campuses — such as canteen workers, office and library assistants and parking police — are traditionally done by students. American undergraduates edu-

cation being rather highly programmed and not very contemplative, this system is fairly consistent with a state of affairs in which the subjects combine the roles of worker and student.

The other major American source of supplementary student finance is the Federal Government loan scheme. Billions of dollars of new loans go out under this scheme annually. But the present American scheme has serious economic problems and is not, in fact, much liked by President Reagan, whose Administration has been trying to cut it back.

Under the scheme a student borrows money from a private bank at an interest rate around 10 per cent, while the Government not only guarantees the loan but pays both the interest accumulated before 9 months after the student graduates and the difference between 10 per cent and the current market rate of about 15 per cent over the whole term of the loan.

For the American banks, this is profit for jam. For the Federal Treasury, it is an open-ended commitment which may increase the dreaded money supply.

There is no such thing as a free lunch. If a student loan scheme containing an interest subsidy were by some miracle accepted by the British Treasury it would surely be brought down by the Bank of England. Nevertheless, it remains the case that the Government possesses a potential capacity for collecting student debts and/or for insuring loans that will at least seem greater and cheaper than the same risk would appear to your average high-street bank manager. One can envisage a scheme in

which the central government or local authority provides guarantees for loans at variable interest rates equal to the going rate on medium-term, gilt-edged securities. Provided that there does exist in this country a policy for controlling the money supply — a matter about which there is controversy — the finance for these loans would be diverted from other uses, such as consumer credit, and should not, therefore, be inflationary according to monetarist theories.

It remains a problem that in the present, and prospective state of the economy, a responsible counsellor would be hard-put to advise a student to take on a significant burden of debt at current interest rates. After for more modest amounts of debt, the scheme could be a useful source of topping-up finance for students or parents who felt their grants, in any, were inadequate.

One suspects that many students and parents would find other solutions. It cannot be pretended that the plan as a whole would be popular. But if frankly presented it should at least be less unpopular than the present policy which, as you know, is proving very unpopular. The plan would also give individual universities themselves an incentive to fight hard against inflationary increases in student residence costs. The more successful they were, the more students they could attract. I know that you and I must be in total agreement that there is a moral there for the whole public sector.

Robin Marris

The author is Professor of Economics at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Missiles: the gap that must be closed

by William Rodgers
Social Democratic MP for Stockton

The history of nuclear defence policy is perhaps the outstanding example of government proceeding in secrecy, despite the very large sums of public money involved, and almost certainly with damaging consequences in terms of public support.

Conservative governments have relied on loyalty and strong military instincts to restrain probing from their supporters; Labour governments have believed the less said the better, given the socialist leanings of theirs. The result has been a polarisation of attitudes — either "in favour of" nuclear weapons or against — and virtually no discussion of technological, strategic and economic matters.

What became known as the Chevaline programme for the improvement of Polaris missiles (eventually costing the taxpayer £1,000m) was not explained to the House of Commons until (in a statement on January 24 1981) it had been completed. The Defence White Paper of 1975 had said of Polaris, "We shall maintain its effectiveness". Subsequently, as Minister of State for Defence, I was instructed to say that the Government was "updating" Polaris, although not going to the new generation of nuclear weapons. There was no question, for example, of "MIRV-ing".

It is impossible to believe that those towards whom secrecy was justified, in particular the Soviet Union, failed to put two and two together or would have been wiser had the costs of the programme been revealed. A Member of Parliament with normal access to Washington defence gossip could also have made a shrewd guess at what was happening. Why, then, was Parliament not told?

But, in defence, the cloak of secrecy is beguiling. The Minister feels that he is sharing in dangerous and brave events. He is loath to suggest that the magic circle should be widened or to take

the risk should any breach of security result. It is a tough and exceptional Minister — and then only the head of the department — who says "Yes" when the Chiefs of Staff (who can appeal to the Prime Minister) advise him to say "No". Telling the House of Commons is an additional burden gratefully escaped.

Fear of publicity, rather than any pretence of security, delayed a debate on the case for Nato installing Cruise missiles in Britain until after the election of December 1979. A substantial literature on sea, air and land-launched Cruise missiles had grown up in the preceding five years. But, quite apart from discussion of technical questions and the choice between systems, there was virtually no reference to the relative importance of parity in theatre nuclear forces within the overall nuclear balance. The British public were hardly aware of the Soviet SS-20 missiles until the decision on Cruise had been justified.

The story was much the same with the decision to buy Trident to replace Polaris. In this case it was common knowledge that the Navy's Polaris submarines were likely to reach the end of their natural life in the early 1980s and that a long lead time would be required for a successor. The alternatives had been widely canvassed among defence experts and raised political, military and cost considerations which were controversial even among those wholly committed to nuclear strategy.

Ministers had had the matter on their desks at least since 1977 and early in 1980 it became clear that a decision was imminent. There was no reason whatsoever why the Government should not have published the options to be debated in the House of Commons before a final decision was made. In the event, the announcement was made first and the debate on the options paper — egregiously called Defence Open Govern-

ment Document 80/23 — merely sought endorsement of the Government's action.

I regret the failure of successive governments to take Parliament into its confidence on nuclear defence policy — and the failure of Parliament to pursue more vigorously its right to be consulted. But the issue goes wider. The majority of the public may be content to leave these matters to those who appear best able to judge them, but a significant minority is not.

The campaign against nuclear arms of any kind has been growing with virtually no attempt by governments to encourage informed discussion and lead the public through the choices and the process of decision-making. There is no dispute about the grave risks associated with nuclear weapons on virtually every course. This is an area where a Select Committee has a particular responsibility to provide a vehicle for disclosure, from which it should not be diverted by the pressure of ministers.

There are civil matters about which the public has a right to know but where secrecy — or, at least, an obstructive reluctance to disclose information — has been the rule. This has happened with public inquiries, where the complexity of the issues and the cost of delay have been made the excuse. Civil servants have been defensive about their inability to explain their case in public, especially when it was of a technical nature; and generally anxious about the damaging consequences of planning "leakage".

The Council on Tribunals, set up in 1958 following the Franks Report, has a broad supervisory role over the constitution and work of certain bodies. But there is a select committee to which the public could appeal when questions concerning disclosure by government departments were in dispute. The Parliamentary Commissioner is concerned solely with

maladministration. He has no power to instruct departments to remedy the consequences of their acts, although they rarely fail to do so. It should be possible to extend this principle to cover defined areas of dispute between individuals and the executive where access to information is plainly germane to an individual's defence of his rights.

Let me give an example of what I mean that arose when I was Secretary of State for Transport. In 1976, the Government announced a review of highway procedures. This followed in-

creased public concern about the effect of road schemes on communities and their environment which had been reflected in serious difficulties at some inquiries into road proposals. There was a feeling that vital information in the possession of the Department of Transport was being withheld from objectors; and that, together with high costs, this gave an unfair advantage to the promoters of road schemes.

Important motorway proposals were being delayed not on their merits but because one side had no

This is an extract from William Rodgers's *The Politics of Change*, published today by Secker and Warburg, price £7.95.



The Judge about to become a jailbird

The recently retired Judge Edward Clarke, whose convictions in murder cases were overruled twice in one week after this month had come to the bar. Theatrical Society's forthcoming production of *Measure for Measure*. He plays Barnardine, "a dissolute prisoner".

Clarke has been a regular in the society's performances of Shakespeare and Moliere in recent years, but says that increasing age diminishes the roles he is prepared to tackle. He is 73 and Barnardine is on stage only about five minutes.

There is some excitement in legal circles, though, that Clarke may not yet have bowed out of his judicial role. It is rumoured that he may have applied to return as a relief judge at the Inner London Sessions, of that Clarke will only say: "I must wait and see what happens."

In one of the murder cases in which Clarke's convictions were recently quashed, he had secretly passed a note to the jury giving them a deadline by which a verdict must be reached. The Appeal Court deplored his action as "a grave material irregularity". In the second case the Appeal Court held that Clarke had not dealt adequately, "if at all", with the accused's defence of provocation.

The first night of *Measure for Measure* is next Monday in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn.



The Israeli actor, playwright and director Gabriel Dagan has taken many curtain calls, but he declined to take a bow after the contralto Maureen Forrester recently sang something he wrote as a teenager in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

His narrative documenting camp life was one of five pieces gleaned from a volume of poetry and drawings by Theresienstadt children. They were put to music

by the Canadian composer Srul Irving Glick. Miss Forrester sang Dagan's words for several years in the United States, Canada and Europe believing the writer, whose original name was Peter Fischel, had later died in Auschwitz. Earlier this month a programme editor for the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra established that Fischel had hebraized his name to Gabriel Dagan and was living in Israel.

Dagan and his family were invited to the Israeli premiere. He declined to take a bow, he said, because he did not want to cry before 3,000 people.

urged her to write a "real" book instead, so she spent five years researching the nineteenth-century sealing industry and writing herself into the character of a teenage boy stranded during a hunting expedition. The book finally appears when Kari is 11, and just at an age to appreciate it.

\$1,000 in a fund whose annual income was to be given to a deserving bride.

Kerry, partially handicapped by a rheumatic condition, works as a waitress at the City Hall. She was recommended for the award by four councillors who knew of her difficulties.

Salesmanship

London is pressing hard to become the EEC trade marks capital with the help of a glossy brochure and a good deal of subtle Community-wide lobbying.

A mere glance at the brochure ought to be enough to convince anyone who reads English, French or German that there is no logical other place to site the office.

The brochure has been produced and paid for by the Labour-controlled Greater London Council, which has noted how Munich has benefited from being the site of the Community's patents office. There is no mention anywhere in any of the three languages that the Labour Party is committed to leaving the EEC.

Off target

A political row is brewing over the Welsh Art Council's decision to stop subsidizing Wales's English-language fortnightly, *Arddor*. In the final edition of the magazine, published over the weekend, John Osmond, the editor, alleges that bias among Welsh Arts Council members in favour of the Welsh language helped stop the grant and so kill his magazine.

In December, he says, Meic

Stephens, the council's literature secretary, resigned after funding for 1982. The council decided otherwise and now Osmond has asked the select committee for Welsh Affairs to investigate the council's "lack of accountability".

Sir Hywel Evans, the council's chairman, says that the magazine's circulation of around 2,500 does not merit any more money and that he would happily fund an English-language magazine which sold better. *Arddor* was launched about 18 months ago with a circulation target of 5,000.

World audience

While the Pope is in Britain in May the BBC World Service will broadcast his play *Outside the Jewelers*, written in the late 1950s when he was auxiliary bishop of Cracow. It has already been heard by BBC listeners at home and the transcription service has sold it to radio stations in 27 countries.

The play is about love and marriage and stars Nigel Hawthorne, Barbara Jefford and Maureen O'Brien. Jeremy Verity of the transcription will be in Rome next weekend and will present the Pope with a copy of the tape at a general audience. He will also give him readings by Richard Pascoe and Hannah Gordon of the Pope's sequence of poems called *Easter Vigil*.

Don't bank on it

The jacket of a new sociological study of life in kibbutz is causing some embarrassment to its British publisher, Andre Deutsch. The jacket of the book,

Kibbutz Makom, by Israeli psychologist Amia Lieblich, carries a photograph of two women working in a sun-drenched Jordan Valley cornfield. "Lovely picture", everyone said, until PHS pointed out that the women were Palestinian Arabs wearing traditional costume and not members of a kibbutz at all. "Ouch", said a Deutsch spokesman, adding, "It's not our fault. We used the same jacket as the book's American edition".

Members of the Industrial Marketing Research Association are being put to the test. A circular inviting them to a meeting entitled *Researching for Innovation* leaves when and where the meeting is to be held.

On their medal

The Chinese National People's Congress has become the second recipient of the Houses of Parliament medal, a silver-gilt souvenir with a green leather case. The first people to be given the medal were the Prince and Princess of Wales when they dined at the Palace of Westminster.

The medalion was presented to Peng Chong, a member of the Chinese Communist Party politico and a delegate from Shanghai to the National People's Congress, by a visiting parliamentary delegation led by Edward Du Cann and Arthur Bottomley. They were celebrating the tenth anniversary of normalization of British diplomatic relations with

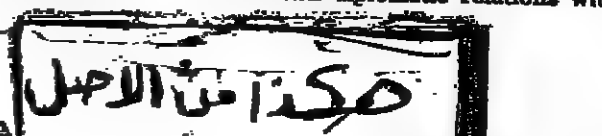
China, at a lakeside restaurant where the Empress dowager used to like to eat.

Broad church

It is not only at St Paul's that Lent lunches are providing lively lectures. At Preston parish church in Lancashire to date the Bishop of Carlisle has vigorously expounded his belief in the sanctity of family life, only to find himself besieged by the divorced and separated demanding to know where they fit in. Bishop E. R. "Ted" Wickham, doyen of the Church's experts on industry, talked of the creation of wealth and importance of investment, only to be accused of being a politician dressed as a priest, and the Bishop of Lancaster, says the rector, gave "fascinating insights on how to go about making churches redundant and demolishing them". Today's sacrificial victim is the chairman of the North Lancashire Methodist District, the Rev W. Knowles.

Quiz answers

1. Mary Whitehouse, who took *The Romans in Britain* to court. The show closed before the stars booked by the defence had appeared.
2. The Sultan of Oman.
3. At Westminster Bridge, where 69 demonstrators dressed as Lord Denning hijacked a bus.
4. In Gnome. The *Soho* offices of *Private Eye* are frequently mistaken for a brothel.



David Walliams
The man with so to teach

Two facts about the week's events: First, the... Second, the... Third, the... Fourth, the... Fifth, the... Sixth, the... Seventh, the... Eighth, the... Ninth, the... Tenth, the... Eleventh, the... Twelfth, the... Thirteenth, the... Fourteenth, the... Fifteenth, the... Sixteenth, the... Seventeenth, the... Eighteenth, the... Nineteenth, the... Twentieth, the... Twenty-first, the... Twenty-second, the... Twenty-third, the... Twenty-fourth, the... Twenty-fifth, the... Twenty-sixth, the... Twenty-seventh, the... Twenty-eighth, the... Twenty-ninth, the... Thirtieth, the... Thirty-first, the... Thirty-second, the... Thirty-third, the... Thirty-fourth, the... Thirty-fifth, the... Thirty-sixth, the... Thirty-seventh, the... Thirty-eighth, the... Thirty-ninth, the... Fortieth, the... Forty-first, the... Forty-second, the... Forty-third, the... Forty-fourth, the... Forty-fifth, the... Forty-sixth, the... Forty-seventh, the... Forty-eighth, the... Forty-ninth, the... Fiftieth, the... Fifty-first, the... Fifty-second, the... Fifty-third, the... Fifty-fourth, the... Fifty-fifth, the... Fifty-sixth, the... Fifty-seventh, the... Fifty-eighth, the... Fifty-ninth, the... Sixtieth, the... Sixty-first, the... Sixty-second, the... Sixty-third, the... Sixty-fourth, the... Sixty-fifth, the... Sixty-sixth, the... Sixty-seventh, the... Sixty-eighth, the... Sixty-ninth, the... Seventieth, the... Seventy-first, the... Seventy-second, the... Seventy-third, the... Seventy-fourth, the... Seventy-fifth, the... Seventy-sixth, the... Seventy-seventh, the... Seventy-eighth, the... Seventy-ninth, the... Eightieth, the... Eighty-first, the... Eighty-second, the... Eighty-third, the... Eighty-fourth, the... Eighty-fifth, the... Eighty-sixth, the... Eighty-seventh, the... Eighty-eighth, the... Eighty-ninth, the... Ninetieth, the... Ninety-first, the... Ninety-second, the... Ninety-third, the... Ninety-fourth, the... Ninety-fifth, the... Ninety-sixth, the... Ninety-seventh, the... Ninety-eighth, the... Ninety-ninth, the... One hundredth, the...

OBITUARY

1979 he passed out from Soviet armed forces general headquarters military academy and became deputy commander of the Leningrad

BITUARY
MISS
ARJORIE
OLLARD
influential
figure in
hockey

Marjorie Ollard, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great woman of her generation. She was the England's best known female hockey player, and a leading figure in the sport. She played for the England team from 1921 to 1932, and was captain of the team from 1921 to 1929. She was also a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. She was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. She was also a member of the Women's Hockey Association. She was a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. She was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. She was also a member of the Women's Hockey Association.

CAPTAIN ROSE
Philip Rose, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great man of his generation. He was the England's best known male hockey player, and a leading figure in the sport. He played for the England team from 1921 to 1932, and was captain of the team from 1921 to 1929. He was also a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. He was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. He was also a member of the Men's Hockey Association.

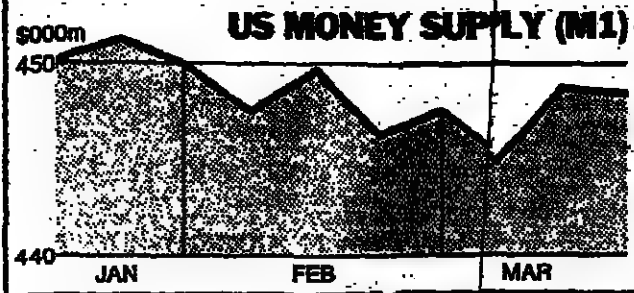
MR REGINALD
Reginald, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great man of his generation. He was the England's best known male hockey player, and a leading figure in the sport. He played for the England team from 1921 to 1932, and was captain of the team from 1921 to 1929. He was also a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. He was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. He was also a member of the Men's Hockey Association.

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Fed slows M1



United States money supply (M1) fell fractionally last week to \$448,400m (€250,500m) from \$448,800m the previous week. After an alarming binge in growth earlier this year, the Federal Reserve Bank appears to have kept M1 under better control recently, although it is still well above this year's target range of 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 per cent. Analysts fear a rapid, if temporary, increase in M1 in April, accompanied by higher interest rates because of payment of tax rebates.

Pressure on the TSB

Moves are believed to be afoot to bring together the 16 regional Trustee Savings Banks under single holding company as part of plans to bring the TSBs into the private sector. At present the TSBs comprising 16 unincorporated societies with a central board set up by statute, are controlled by the Treasury and are exempt under the 1979 Banking Act. According to Retail Banker International there is pressure on the TSBs to agree on a new structure prior to legislation needed for a move to full banking status.

Survey of taxation

The effects of the tax and social security systems on the incentive to work and the creation of the so-called poverty trap is to be examined by a sub-committee of the influential all-party Select Committee of MPs on the Treasury and Civil Service. The sub-committee, to be headed by Labour MP Mr. Michael Meacher, has appointed as specialist advisers Professor A. B. Atkinson of the London School of Economics, and Mr. John Kay, research director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Lloyd's Bill Changes

The Lloyd's Bill is due to come before the House of Lords in its second reading on April 1. The Bill, a private measure to give Lloyd's more flexibility in disciplining members found guilty of insurance abuses, is believed to have attracted six amendments.

China to build 100 factories for mixed liquor

China is to build 100 factories for mixed liquor in the Shekou industrial zone before 1985 and develop a Deepwater Bay in China as a supply base for exportation in the South China Sea. Investment from Hongkong is being sought.

THE WEEK AHEAD

All eyes on Eage Star

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.7 rose 5.9
FT 100s 88.46 rose 0.15
FT All Share 328.18 up 3.92
Bargains 18.408

Insurance shares are in the spotlight this week, with final results due on Wednesday from Prudential, and on Friday from Alliance Assurance.

But most attention is likely to focus on the complete picture where Eage Star may see company Wednesday's results with comments on the likely intentions of Allianz Versicherung which holds a 28 per cent stake.

The share price has remained buoyant on the assumption that the German group would make a further bid when the 32 million takeover code cooling-off period expires in June.

Talks are believed to have taken place between the two sides since the previous bid lapsed, and there were reports that a suit in the United States was being sought as a preferable alternative.

One other possibility would be to dilute the Allianz stake by issuing some of the 43 million shares authorized but unused, which could cut the Allianz stake to little over 20 per cent.

At the half-way stage profits exceeded market expectations, jumping from £29.5m to £38.5m pre-tax, and despite continued weakness of motor insurance, the effects of the severe winter weather on the second half, analysts expect to see taxable profits up from £65.5m to about £73m in the year to December.

Gareth David

DIARY

Today: Gross domestic product (fourth quarter provisional). Tomorrow: Institute of Directors' annual convention Royal Albert Hall, London. Unemployment figures and unemployment vacancies (fourth quarter). Wednesday: Education, Science and Arts Committee on biotechnology. Phillips and Drew International investment conference. Construction new orders (January).

ECONOMIC VIEW

Today sees the publication of the income and expenditure measures of gross domestic product for the fourth quarter of 1981, with the first indication of what happened to company profits. The output measure of GDP published last month showed a 1/2 per cent rise between the third and fourth quarters.

Unemployment figures for March are released tomorrow. The number of jobless usually shows a fall in March as more school leavers find jobs and better weather means extra jobs in outdoor occupations. So the 'beaches' total may fall from its February level of 3,045 million. The underlying trend, though, will still be upward.

On Thursday the Bank of England will reveal its assessment of the state of the British economy in its quarterly bulletin. Analysts will be trying to read between the lines to spot the difference of view between the Bank and the Treasury.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY—Interim: Old Court Initial Reserve, J & J Maltin, Mills, Reliable Properties, Second City Properties, Trafford Park Estates, Woodrow Wyatt. Final: Arcliffe Holdings, Beaton Clark, Cattle's Holdings, Consultants (Computer & Financial), Exeter Building and Construction Group, Jackson Exploration Inc. (Highway PEWS), Squire-Horn, Williams Horn, Williams and Jones (Engineers).

TOMORROW—Interim: Arthur Bell, British Car Auctions, Fairview Estates, Patterson Zochonis, Pashayan Property, Ricardo Group, Sulting Engineers, Final: Chemicals International, Equity and Law Life Assurance, Fairclough Construction, Life Indemnity, Finlay Packaging, Firmin and Sons, Smith and Mepham, Tomlin, Distillers, Waterford Glass, Watmoughs, Willis Faber, H. Woodford.

WEDNESDAY—Interim: Armstrong Equipment, Blue Bird

Mrs Gandhi's visit set to boost exports

By Peter Hill and Clive Cookson

Britain will use this week's official visit by Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to promote seals that could bring British industry £1,150m worth of business and preserve thousands of jobs.

The two main projects are a £1,000m power station and associated coal mine, and the first overseas order for System X Britain's electronic telephone exchange, worth about £150m.

Negotiations on the power station project, in which Northern Engineering Industries is the lead contractor, have reached an advanced stage. Although it is likely to be some months before a letter of intent is signed, British ministers hope Mrs Gandhi's visit will provide a new impetus for decisions.

The British Government has been heavily involved in negotiations with NEL, the National Engineering Laboratories, responsible for most of the power station equipment, apart from the turbine generators, which GEC would supply.

The power station is to be built at Singrauli. The National Coal Board would provide technical assistance for the associated mine at Karanpura.

System X is the telephone switching system developed by British Telecom and its three main suppliers in Great Britain. It is still waiting for its first export order, three years after the four organizations set up a joint company, British Telecommunications Systems (BTS), to sell the exchange abroad.

Until recent, BTS concentrated its efforts on adapting the System X specifications for export, and on identifying possible markets, rather than on an all-out sales campaign. However, under pressure from a Government anxious to capitalize on the public money spent developing the exchange, a more aggressive sales drive is now under way.

India is the first big prospect. In January Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Information Technology, and Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, visited India to promote System X.

Under BTS rules, one partner becomes lead contractor for each export market after the joint company has laid the groundwork. It is solely responsible for the final tender and—if successful—for building and installing the exchanges. GEC, which is taking the lead in India, will submit its tender before the end of this month.

The Indian contract, which would be worth £100m to £150m, would initially involve electronic switching equipment for about 200,000 telephone lines, requiring perhaps 20 exchanges. The Government will also expect the successful bidder to set up one or two factories in India to manufacture switching equipment under licence.

India is seen by British ministers as holding huge export potential for United Kingdom companies after India's recently negotiated £3,000m loan from the International Monetary Fund, a large part of which is earmarked for promoting industrial development.

Natwest weighs in behind Whitehall

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Support for the Government's economic policies has come from National Westminster.

Mr Robert Leigh-Pemberton, chairman, says in the bank's annual report that it has become apparent that high inflation is deeply embedded in Britain and has left industry seriously uncompetitive.

"It is difficult to see any alternative to the acceptance of the severity of the present policies designed to reduce the growth of money supply and the level of public expenditure and thus control inflation," he says.

There are grounds for

Moves to oust ACC head

Directors of ACC are expected to meet today to discuss whether Mr Robert Holmes & Court should step down as chairman. Support appears to be growing, supported by the view that Mr Holmes & Court is bidding for ACC.

There has been disquiet in the City at the possible conflicts of interest that Mr Holmes & Court's dual role

BL optimistic on competitiveness and production

Car price gap 'will narrow'

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Mr Ray Horrocks, chairman and chief executive of BL Cars, forecast an end to the controversial pricing system which has led to a big increase in personal imports of cheaper British cars from the Continent.

"In our view the normal operation of market forces, both in the UK and Europe, can be expected to cause price differentials to narrow quite substantially over time and the apparent attractiveness of parallel imports will decline."

The pricing of British cars abroad—often at levels thousands of pounds lower than on the domestic market—has already caused a political storm in the UK and concern in the motor industry. Thousands of angry customers have crossed the Channel to buy their cars in the showrooms of countries such as Belgium or Holland.

Mr Horrocks said that if market forces were accelerated and British car prices were forced down to present Continental levels, a further severe contraction would occur throughout the entire car and components industries.

The profitability of the United Kingdom franchised car dealer network would be hit and dealers would face either going out of business or contracting to the point where customer service was greatly reduced, he added.

There had to be a middle ground where the two levels of prices would meet and this could take place over about a two-year period.

Sinclair shares for sale

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Mr Clive Sinclair plans to sell off part of Sinclair Research, his two-year-old microelectronics company which has an estimated profit of £5m a year.

He has asked Rothschild's merchant bank to arrange a private placing of shares in Sinclair Research. Rothschild, which is still smarting from public criticism of its valuation of Amersham International, may find it even more difficult to judge the right price for Sinclair shares.

"At the moment we don't know how to value the business," a Rothschild executive said. As a first step, the bank has sent in a firm of accountants to report on the finances and future prospects of the company.

Rothschild hopes that the report, with Sinclair's own results for its second full financial year ending on March 31, will allow a price to be agreed during the summer. The shares could be placed with City institutions in the autumn.

Mr Sinclair is thinking of selling about 20 per cent of the company. He wants to raise money for his ambitious research and development programme. Sinclair Research runs four laboratories, including one in Exeter working on an electric car to be launched in 1984.

Sinclair Research has not existed long enough to qualify for a quotation on the London stock exchange, and Mr Sinclair and Rothschild do not like the idea of trading the shares on the unlisted securities market. But, in the longer run, Sinclair is heading toward a full stock market quotation.

The company's extraordinary, though brief, growth record should allow Rothschild to place the shares at a very fancy price. On the other hand, Sinclair's performance so far has been due almost entirely to the ZX81 home computer, which has sold more than 300,000 units during the year since its launch.

A one-product company, dependent on the genius of one man, Mr Sinclair, may not look so attractive. Therefore Rothschild will evaluate future products—particularly the ZX2 follow-up computer and the £50 flat-screen television which will be launched later this year—very carefully before it puts a value on the company.

Several British and European companies are challenging tax laws operated by a number of American states which, they claim, are penalizing their United States operations.

At least 50 British companies, including ICI, Unilever, Cadbury-Schweppes and Reckitt & Colman, together with dozens of French, German, Italian, Dutch and other European multinational groups, are campaigning against the laws. Legal proceedings have been

Europeans test US tax laws

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

taken to the United States Supreme Court alleging that some of the tax laws enforced by several states, including Oregon, Illinois and California, infringe the United States constitution.

European employers' organisations, among them the Confederation of British Industry, are spearheading the legal challenge on which the Supreme Court will shortly be asked for a decision. At the centre of this legal wrangle is the issue of unitary taxation, a system

under which a company's tax liability is calculated on a proportion of the world-wide profits of the entire group.

UNICE, the confederation of European employer organisations, has lodged a detailed submission with the Supreme Court. It is being supported strongly by the CBI which has spent five years arguing over the unitary taxation issue with support from the European Community, the United Kingdom Government.

Courier services 'a benefit to public'

By Baron Phillips

Britain's rapidly expanding air courier service will tell MPs this week that consumers have benefited greatly from the removal of the Post Office monopoly on postal services.

In the last two years business for international couriers—which specialise in moving documents and parcels across the world quickly—has doubled. It is now worth about £45m for the 15-strong membership of the Association of International Air Courier Services.

Members believe turnover could expand by a further 50 per cent within the next year. On Wednesday the Association will give evidence to the Select Committee on Industry and Trade, which is

looking at the effects of last October's British Telecommunications Act. The Act suspended the Post Office monopoly for time sensitive letters, provided private competitors charged a minimum £1.

The service has made great inroads, particularly in the world's financial centres. High interest rates and fluctuating exchange rates have necessitated rapid transfer of documents between banks.

In all cases couriers have expanded on the back of assured delivery times which, the association claims, the Post Office cannot always offer. And since the passing of the Act the market for this type of delivery service has expanded rapidly.

BL Cars is "within striking distance" of concluding a revolutionary new deal with the 11 unions representing 50,000 manual workers. BL Cars spokesman said: "We are within striking distance of one of the most far-reaching labour relations deals agreed since BL was created. But we are not there yet. One or two meetings will still be needed to clinch it."

However, it is known that the biggest breakthrough will be the formation of a National Joint Negotiating Committee which, unlike its predecessor, will not be an undisciplined "talking shop" dominated by militant shop stewards members of the Transport and General Workers Union.

The original JNC collapsed in November 1980. At the next meeting on Friday the two sides are expected to agree the constitution of the JNC. They will also introduce a new procedural agreement for settling disputes and a much modified version of the present bonus scheme to make it more easily understood by employees and to relate payment to an individual's efforts as opposed to a whole plant.

Mr Horrocks denied suggestions that higher United Kingdom car prices were deliberately encouraged to subsidize BL at the expense of the consumer. Since 1977, when United Kingdom and European prices had been similar, United Kingdom prices had been increased by the strength of the pound against European currencies and by higher United Kingdom inflation.

Solely on the difference in exchange rates, he said, a car which cost £3,000 in the United Kingdom and Belgium in 1977 would now have fallen in Belgium to the equivalent of £2,220 "without any intervention by the manufacturer."

"It also takes into account United Kingdom inflation was 70 per cent over the period, while in Belgium it was only 30 per cent, a difference in prices is hardly surprising."

However, said Mr Horrocks, a general rise in European prices now seemed likely. Car makers on the Continent, most of whom were now unprofitable, were facing pressure from their bankers to raise prices on the ground that they were becoming "too competitive."

Bid for business index 'a scandal'

By Drew Johnston

Trouble is brewing over the destination of more than a million highly-detailed card-indexed business records held by the now-defunct Registry of Business Names closed last month after 66 years' part of the Government's drive to reduce the numbers of Civil Service jobs.

To the fury of the credit agency industry which used the records extensively in assessing credit worthiness, a bid for the records has been made by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry which last month set up an alternative, "free enterprise" business registry.

The LCCI has made it clear that its business search charges will be substantially greater than the search fee of 5p levied by the old registry. A fee of £10 has been mooted.

No decision on the bid has been taken by the Government, but a statement from Dr Gerard Vaughan, consumer Affairs Minister, is expected shortly.

A Department of Trade spokesman said the LCCI had asked the Department to sell its records for use in its registry service. "We've been considering it for some weeks."

Mr George Cordoroy, a spokesman for Stationers' Law Society, who described himself as representing around 75 per cent of company registration agents said: "We think it's a scandal."

"We're alarmed that anyone has made a bid, because possession of the index of business names registrations means they can charge high fees for access to information which was compiled for the public's use."

He said that with high fees and the high number of searches—175,000 in 1979—the owner of such information could make large sums of money.

Under the terms of the 1981 Companies Act, businesses must display the owner's name at the place of business, as well as an address, but, according to Mr Cordoroy, this is not an effective substitute for the old registry.

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ITALY Relief as fifth oil chief is named

The appointment of Signor Enrico Gandolfi as ENI's fifth head in three years has relieved the tension that was paralysing the management of Italy's state-owned oil corporation. But Signor Gandolfi has been put in as special government commissioner, only for six months and, unless his term is extended, he will be able to do little more than lay the foundations for recovery.

ENI, according to a member of the government, is losing 5,000m lire (£2m) a day, but the immediate cause for the dismissal of Signor Alberto Grandi, chairman, was political. As a Christian Democrat, he fell victim to the coalition parties' logic whereby the giant corporation IRI should be headed by a Christian Democrat, ENI by a Socialist, and the smaller EFIM by a Socialist Democrat.

Signor Grandi became involved in public controversy with Signor Gianni De Michelis, the Socialist Minister for state industry, who called on him to resign, and with ENI's Socialist vice-chairman, Signor Leonardo di Donna, who hoped to succeed him. In the end, the Socialists did not get all they wanted.

The case in not closed, however, because the minister intends to reform the whole public sector. The terms have expired of the other two corporations' chairmen, Signor Pietro Sette (Christian Democrat) at IRI and Signor Corrado Fiacchetti (Social Democrat) at EFIM.

Even if they are re-appointed, the chance is offered for a thorough shakeup, and the minister has circulated among the coalition parties a scheme for restructuring the three corporations.

Signor Gandolfi, aged 68, has been with ENI for 26 years, later as chairman of the SAIPEM subsidiary. He is a non-political figure, unduly reported profits and gained world reputation in deep sea pipe laying.

At ENI, he faces several pressing problems. The government has to decide whether to approve an agreement concluded by ENI in January to take 180,000 million cubic metres of Soviet gas from the proposed Siberian pipeline.

Mindful of United States pressure, Rome has so far hesitated, but even if American opposition appears to have softened the coalition is divided between the Christian Democrats (in favour) and the Socialists and Social Democrats (against).

Negotiations have to be concluded with Algeria on the price of the methane to come through the Transmed pipeline.

On purely commercial grounds, the Italians are not in a hurry. The distribution network inside Italy is not yet ready. A report to the cabinet says gas supplies from existing domestic and foreign sources are enough to satisfy demand for at least two years.

With Saudi Arabia, ENI is seeking to resume direct purchases of oil from the state company Petromin. The Saudis suspended deliveries two years ago amid allegations of scandal over the destination of commission payments.

John Earle

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds.	13.5%
C. Hoare & Co.	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 10%
£10,000 to £50,000, 11%
£50,000 and over 11.5%



Gordon Borrie outside his home: "People won't argue — an unfortunate British trait"

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

Looking for a home-front breakthrough

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has decided that his concern to promote competition and improve the lot of the consumer will be focused this year on the householder.

The main initiative will be to get more done about shortcomings in home improvements work, from plumbing and plastering to roofing and re-pointing.

It should strike a chord with many of Britain's 11.5 million owner occupiers and 9.5 million renters of property — as it does with Mr Borrie himself. At his part-15th century converted Worcestershire farmhouse he has recently had a wall blown down, been troubled with fuel-oil freeze-ups and had to have the roof fixed.

He has decided he must soon do something about the decided lean assumed by a chimney stack that could fall through the roof. At least when a radiator bursts, the run of the old timbers directed the water away from the carpets and straight out of a window and into the garden.

"It's nice when you have a bit of that sort of luck, but for some people involved in home improvement, luck need not strike all that often, judging from the complaints I get," says Mr Borrie.

There are already developments in which Mr Borrie has been involved that are of potential benefit to householders. Legislation affecting estate agents in May introduced a number of protective measures with house purchasers' deposits having to go into a special account and a house seller having the legal right to know the basis of an agent's terms.

Mandatory scale fees for

estate agents have already been scrapped, but Mr Borrie admits that while there are signs that estate agents are willing to negotiate on fees, particularly for high-priced properties, a lot depends on their customers pressing for the best deal.

"The trouble is that people won't argue — an unfortunate British trait", Mr Borrie says.

He is turning a sharp eye on nearly a restrictive agreement between estate agents on a localized basis which deal among other things with valuation scales. Agents involved are being asked to drop them.

The Royal Institute of British Architects has agreed to drop its mandatory scales for fees although it remains to be seen how quickly competition actually breaks in.

"The householder will have to prod, and I intend to urge him or her to do just that", Mr Borrie said.

He judges that competition is less likely to grow among architects than estate agents. Property shops, some with computerized lists, have emerged on the high streets in competition with the traditional estate agent, but Mr Borrie is alarmed that such lower-priced competition could be running into problems.

There have been reports of some local newspapers being reluctant to take advertising from the property shops. The question is how far this might reflect a cosy arrangement between a local newspaper and the established estate agents in the locality.

Home improvements, on which Mr Borrie will produce a discussion paper today, was not an easy area for the Office of Fair Trading to

tackle. In one of those sectors that are hallmarked by fast growth and the hard doorstep sell, Mr Borrie has already had success: what he regards as an effective code of conduct agreed with the Glass and Glazing Federation covering the double-glazing sector.

An indemnity scheme now protects the consumer against financial failure of a contractor, particularly important where long-term guarantees are involved.

Contract terms have been altered to guarantee a cooling-off period for those who sign a deal one night and have second thoughts the next day.

Mr Borrie said: "We would like to extend this sort of voluntary agreement to other parts of the home improvements field." But there is a snag. In glazing the trade association covered 70 per cent of the companies in the business. But much of the rest of the home improvements sector is fragmented, with at least 300 trade bodies involved, many of them localized.

"It might be possible to build up something in some sectors like the plumbers, the building trade employers, the master builders. But it looks as if there is a very big element not all deserving the description of cowboys — who choose not to belong to anything."

That could mean taking legislative action, a far longer process than securing voluntary codes through trade associations, as Mr Borrie readily admits.

A particular worry is where household work is done that carries a guarantee of 15 years or more. This usually occurs with pest treatment as for woodworm,

with cavity insulation, with damp proofing, and with outer wall treatments, including cladding.

But in 1980 20 per cent of all bankruptcies were in the building sector. A Which report showed that in the wood preservation sector, 600 out of 850 companies had ceased trading within two years, while a further 900 had set up in business.

The need for some form of indemnity such as a fund raised by bonding from the trade is clear.

Mr Borrie does have one possible weapon in addition to trying to work through the trade associations. It is precisely the fast-growing sectors in the home improvements field where companies usually arrange credit facilities for their customers.

But to be able to do this they need a credit trader's licence — which is dispensed by Mr Borrie. He can also revoke existing licences.

But he realizes that cleaning up the home improvements area is going to be a longer job than one year's effort. Mr Borrie said: "After 12 months we will have done our bit to get people to think more clearly about looking after their own interests better. And I look forward to greater competition in the provision of all kinds of financial and household services to the consumer."

Apert from anything else there is a drag anchor on any efforts made by either Mr Borrie or the trades to improve matters. How many house holders taking on a craftsman will agree to pay cash on a "black economy" basis, with no contract or protection, in order to get a job done more cheaply?

Derek Harris

MARSHALL FIELD TAKEOVER

BAT needs to provide logic and lustre

Twice during the 1870's Marshall Field's first large department store was burnt to the ground. First in the great Chicago fire of 1871 and again six years later.

It was rebuilt in magnificent style with two ornate clock towers and architectural splendour within. The splendour of the architecture may not have faded, but the group's profit performance has.

Expansion outside its Chicago base and traditional department store business has spread management too thin, according to some analysts. The figures produce a telling picture. In 1977 net earnings after tax were \$18.1m (£10m). In 1980 they were \$20.7m and in the third quarter of 1981, the latest published — were down from \$6.5m in the comparable three months to \$4.3m. Sales per square foot have slipped and so has the speed with

which merchandise is turned over.

Marshall Field, once the fashion centre of Chicago, has, according to Mr Walter Loeb, retail analyst of Morgan Stanley, "lost a great deal of lustre". He believes that it failed to stay exciting to the buying public, allowing lower-priced competitors to take its place.

clinging lower-priced competitors to take its place. BAT's own Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor and Neiman Marcus, to move in on its home territory. Also, Mr Loeb believes, it indulged in "illogical expansion plans".

Since Mr Angelo Arena became president in 1977, coming from the position of chairman of Neiman Marcus, Marshall Field has tripled the number of its stores. Acquisitions have included the Breuners furniture chain.

Mr Arena successfully defeated a \$42-a-share offer from Carter Hawley Hale on anti-trust grounds shortly after he became president,

much to the annoyance of some shareholders. Analysts agree that the group is not now worth what it was then.

So what is in it for BAT? Not all analysts agree that the expansion was ill-conceived. Mr John Lanshulz, an analyst with Messier, a Chicago broker, said the strategy was right "but it should have been followed 10 to 15 years ago". Mr Arena had simply been making up for past mistakes.

The cardinal sin was to allow its dominant fashion retail position in Chicago to be eaten away. The store with its ornate clocks was now in the wrong place. Marshall Field made the right decision in opening a new branch at a more competitive site six years ago, but should have done so long before.

That new store, however, is successful and so is a branch in Houston, even if the rationale for having

outlets so far apart is not apparent.

Mr Stuart Robbins, of brokers Paine Webber, said that the Chicago market would be BAT's key to success. It would need to upgrade Field's sales and buying approach to beat the competition and that would involve much time and effort.

But Field has some very valuable properties throughout the country which could generate cash.

BAT would need to concentrate on the fashion designed clothes end of the market which had brought success to Bloomingdale's and Lord Taylor. Department stores could flourish in the United States, he said, but they needed to be exciting.

Analysts believe that the situation is there, but BAT will have its work cut out to achieve it.

Nicholas Hirst

Increasing worries over Japan

The Japanese stock market climbed off the floor towards the end of last week after heavy selling had earlier driven it to an 18 month low.

Hardly the kind of performance one expects from a market that has been the darling of international investors, but indicative perhaps of the increasing worries about where Japan goes from here.

Whether those worries are justified is another matter. Certainly, Japan has not escaped the world recession. Exports fell in the final quarter of 1980 and that, combined with lower levels of stockbuilding, brought the growth in total output grinding to a halt.

The recession is not the only concern. Pressures in western Europe and the United States for more

protectionism against Japanese imports continues to grow — however happy the consumer may be to go on buying Japanese goods.

There are, of course, moves to persuade the Japanese to open up their markets to more European and American goods. But even liberalization of trade in such areas as agricultural products is not going to make a great dent in the trade imbalance. The problem is unlikely to get any easier as the Japanese continue to prove that they can stay ahead of most western countries in terms of efficiency and innovation.

From the overseas investors' viewpoint, it is easy to see the cause of anxiety. Western moves to curb Japanese imports are seen as likely to hit the profitability

of some sectors of Japanese industry and possibly the yen itself, not least if there is less Opec money floating around the world looking for a home.

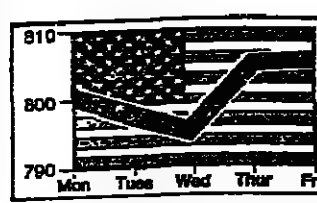
Not all Japanese are quite so worried. Many take heart from the way the economy reacted and adapted to the oil shocks of the seventies far more readily than the western economies. They now see a reasonably stable underlying position.

Moreover, on a short-term view several key economic indicators are pointing towards some revival in the economy. There still seems a reasonable prospect of 3% to 4% per cent growth this year, and any further fall in the oil price would help significantly.

John Whitmore

MARKETROUND-UP

Wall Street checks downturn



The New York stock market stages its strongest rally in three weeks last week. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 8.23 points higher for the week at 805.65. Most of the recovery came on Thursday when the average rose by 9.42 points to 805.27.

Technology stocks, which have recently been depressed, led the rebound. Computer issues, drug, brokerage, defence, transportation, bank, utility, semiconductor and mining stocks shared in the advance although some rose by only a fraction.

The rally helped to reverse the slump that took the Dow average to a 22-month low of 795.85 only last Wednesday. A week ago it fell 9.99 points in the third largest volume of trading in history, 305.4m shares. Two weeks ago, it dropped 17.03 points as 328.8m shares changed hands, the second heaviest trading on record. Last week trading shrank to 243m shares.

Wall Street watches attributed the recovery to the fact that institutions had started to do some buying in order to cover themselves if the market began an extended rise.

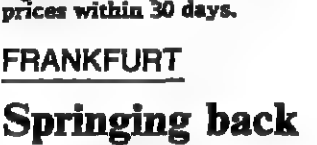
But, opinion is sharply divided as to whether stock prices are likely to move up or down in the coming weeks.

Some analysts do not believe that there will be any sustained recovery until late spring or early summer and have been predicting that the Dow average will go as low as 725 or 750 before it ceases to drop.

But at least one investment firm has already forecast a significant upturn in stock prices within 30 days.

FRANKFURT

Springing back



After a week of lacklustre trading, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange sprang to life on Friday pushing the Commerzbank Index to a high for the year of 712.2.

The trend to lower interest rates is helping bank shares — in particular those such as Commerzbank and Dresdner Bank that in past years made the mistake of lending long at low fixed rates without securing adequate refinancing. The sectors also been boosted by some of the smaller regional banks reporting record profits for what was generally held to be an abysmal banking year.

Foreign investor interest continues to underpin share prices particularly in the engineering and chemical sectors.

Many observers believe that sentiment in German share markets is better than the rather narrow movements of the leading indices would suggest.

The modest 4% per cent wage rise agreed for the metal industry, the strong export performance of German industry and suggestions from the Federal Bank that profits may be beginning to pull out of the trough recorded last summer are all positive background factors. But they have still to translate into a decisively upwards movement in equity prices.

Surprising? Well, it was the view of Phillips and Drew, the London stockbroker, in its latest world investment review, which offers a useful counter-point to the prevailing pessimism in Australian investment and business circles.

While the prospect of falls in energy stocks the jitters, the brokers say that a fall in prices could provide some brighter economic news from the west... at least for 1983 onwards.

A reduction of \$30r so in world oil price — perhaps a 10 per cent cut — could boost the organisation of petroleum exportation countries to lower the official price.

For 1982, the OECD countries' GNP is estimated to rise by a sluggish 4% per cent (against almost 1.5% per cent growth in 1981). This could recover to 3 to 3.5 per cent in 1983 — about the average for the last decade.

Spurred on by an encouraging crop of hazy reports and good news on the oil and gas front, in Melbourne share market took on a much healthier tone this week.

All stock exchange indices made up lost ground over the week with the best recovery coming from the oil and gas index which rose 38% points to 424.7.

HONGKONG

On the sideline



By passing 1,200 on Friday for the first time in two weeks the market is now 100 points off its recent bottom.

The Hang Seng Index closed at 1,207, up 10 points on the week, with average daily turnover at HK\$146.6 (£14.2m). Brokers now see a period of consolidation ahead with the market establishing trading ranges between 1,250 and 1,100. After showing signs of recovery at 1,100, institutions have returned to the sidelines. They are likely to remain there until clearer signals emerge from Wall Street on the course of United States interest rates.

Cheung Kong was again one of the stronger performers, closing at 16.10. A spate of results from leading property companies, reflecting last year's high values, could help to lift sentiment in the next few weeks. While the downturn in the property market since last summer has now been substantially discounted, disappointing results at a New Territories land auction on Thursday failed to turn market sentiment.

AUSTRALIA

Oil hopes

One stockbroker this week saw the prospect of falling oil prices and a Labor victory in the Victoria election as possible bull points for shares.

Surprising? Well, it was the view of Phillips and Drew, the London stockbroker, in its latest world investment review, which offers a useful counter-point to the prevailing pessimism in Australian investment and business circles.

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SINGAPORE

Technical pause

Singapore's stock market closed on a firm note for the second consecutive week, with the Straits Times Index finishing last Friday at 711.39, a gain of 17.38 from the previous Friday. Most brokers interpret this as a temporary technical pause in a still overvalued market.

Sellers are being offset by only a few local investors buying into a generally depressed market with a few bargain issues emerging. Volume was thin last week.

Many analysts expect the index to drop to the 600 level before a firm recovery substantially. The key question now is whether continued selling on a broad front by overseas institutions can be absorbed by local investors.

COMMODITIES

Doubts over new coffee agreement

Among the brave defenders of commodity agreements on these times none is chrier than the proponents of the coffee pact. The coffee price has remained solidly above the floor indicator of 120 cents a pound for most of the present financial year (October 1 to September 30 in coffee's case), and the International Coffee Organization has been able to release more beans on to the market. The ICO claims a success.

But is it successful? Today sees the start of what is likely to be a two-week meeting of the ICO executive committee, during which the elaborate process of drawing up the next coffee pact will unfold. Yet I have the uncomfortable feeling that the agreement's members are being lulled into a sense of false security by the present illusory success of the quota mechanism.

There is a widely held view in the market that coffee is being suspended above the ICO floor price not by the genius of the agreement but by the rather more mundane influence of the Brazilian frost. That frost, it will be recalled, was by consensus of the subject's last July. About 24 per cent of the country's coffee plants suffered varying degrees of damage, and the 1982-3 Brazilian coffee crop is estimated 16m bags compared with 33 million bags in the current season (a bag is 60 kilograms).

The result is that a probable surplus in the coming season has been transformed into a deficit. Consumption is estimated at 84 million bags while supply will be about 4m bags less. In the present 1981-2 season, by contrast, a record production of 96.9 million bags has led to a surplus of 13.9 million bags.

It was for this reason that last September the International Coffee Agreement countries agreed to limit first quarter exports (October to December) to 13 million bags.

At the beginning of October 1981 London robusta coffee for November delivery was £1,076 a tonne, not much above the 120 cents a pound floor. At the end of last week March coffee was more than £1,400 a tonne, despite a fairly sustained liquidation by previous buyers closing their positions.

Moreover, on a short-term view several key economic indicators are pointing towards some revival in the economy. There still seems a reasonable prospect of 3% to 4% per cent growth this year, and any further fall in the oil price would help significantly.

Michael Prest

CAITAL MARKETS

US tax refunds likely to fuel money supply

From Maxwell Newton, New York, March 21

The money market will take some cheer from the failure of the money supply (M1) to grow in the week to March 10 — but the by fear is the expected hike in money growth during April, America's month of tax refunds.

Until April is out of the way, the markets will remain in a state of fear and this will depress bond and bill prices.

After April, however there could be a long and strong rally in bonds and a pronounced drop in interest rates generally. Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Chairman, has already told President Reagan that rates could drop by up to three percentage points during the summer.

The Fed's seasonal adjustments in the early months of the year are open to doubt. Mr Peter Canelo, the respected capital market analyst at Merrill Lynch, calculates the Fed's adjustments make the money supply growth in the early months of the year look too high and in the later months too low.

After April the downside seasonal adjustment effect will tend to depress the money supply figure as published.

Another bull point for bonds after April will be the decline in credit demand. During a powerful upsurge after 1981, the total banks' commercial and industrial loans and commercial paper outstanding has levelled off since mid-February. The seasonally adjusted total of these two measures of short-term credit rose from \$300,000m (£168,000m) in April 1981 through \$360,000m in October-December, to peak at about \$365,000m in mid-February.

A cessation of growth in this measure has been long awaited as an indicator that the voracious appetite for American corporations for short-term loans had abated. Such an abatement would have been expected to follow the decline of "real" GNP by 4.5 per cent a year in the fourth quarter of 1981, followed by another decline on top of that of 4.5 per cent a year in the first quarter of 1982, according to last week's first quarter "flash" GNP report from the Commerce Department.

The failure of outstanding short-term credit even to level out until the last three or four weeks is attributed to the grave problems American corporations have had in reducing inventories despite sharp cuts in production. Another factor that has added to the fear in the money markets is the evidence of the short-term credit boom provided of underlying extreme cash problems among American corporations.

Europe prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	Yld	Conv	Prem
100% 1983	100.00	1.50		
100% 1984	100.00	1.50		
100% 1985	100.00	1.50		
100% 1986	100.00	1.50		
100% 1987	100.00	1.50		
100% 1988	100.00	1.50		
100% 1989	100.00	1.50		
100% 1990	100.00	1.50		
100% 1991	100.00	1.50		
100% 1992	100.00	1.50		
100% 1993	100.00	1.50		
100% 1994	100.00	1.50		
100% 1995	100.00	1.50		
100% 1996	100.00	1.50		
100% 1997	100.00	1.50		
100% 1998	100.00	1.50		
100% 1999	100.00	1.50		
100% 2000	100.00	1.50		
100% 2001	100.00	1.50		
100% 2002	100.00	1.50		
100% 2003	100.00	1.50		
100% 2004	100.00	1.50		
100% 2005	100.00	1.50		
100% 2006	100.00	1.50		
100% 2007	100.00	1.50		
100% 2008	100.00	1.50		
100% 2009	100.00	1.50		
100% 2010	100.00	1.50		

INTER-CITY
PEOPLECARDIFF
In a class
of his own

"A" for effort for Fanthorpe, L., who besides being headmaster of a Cardiff comprehensive school, Glyn Derw, is also something of a publishing phenomenon.

Fanthorpe, 47, writes not textbooks but science fiction, and in Mike Ashley's forthcoming Science Fiction Book of Facts is doing as the fastest and most prolific practitioner there is.

He began writing for SF pulp magazines when he was 17, has since published over 175 books. One was written in 11 hours.

Most are paperbacks written for Badger Books for



Fanthorpe the phenomenal

which the author retains the rights.

With his wife Patricia, he runs a bookshop in Cardiff specializing in SF and fantasy, and he is a director of the city's firm of specialist SF and fantasy publishers, Glyn Derw.

They are publishing an SF trilogy for him, the first volume of which, *Black Lion*, is already out. But Fanthorpe tells me the firm is not handling his latest, a blockbuster non-fiction work, written in collaboration with his wife and called *The Mysterious Treasure of Rennes-le-Chateau*.

This is an answer to Baigent, Lincoln and Leigh's *The Holy Blood & The Holy Grail*, and argues that the mysterious holy relic, the Priory of Zion brotherhood but of Hapsburg sympathizers in Austria.

● Audrey Matheson, who is the in-house foreign languages tutor for the Worcester engineering group Redman Heenan International, finds her pupils getting younger all the time. She is now teaching not only Redman's own managers, but boys from nearby Malvern College, who are coming for conversation classes, under a cooperation between Martin Rogers, the headmaster of Malvern — who wants children to understand business — and Redman group, chief executive John O'Neil, who is also a governor of Malvern School.

FALMOUTH
Tall story

The Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race returns to British waters in July, bringing with it for John Hamilton and Christopher Green the prospect of an intriguing international confrontation.

Hamilton is the race director of the Sail Training Association, and Green a director of the race's sponsors, Cutty Sark.

On Sunday, July 25, over 80 sail training ships are due to set sail from Falmouth to Lisbon — among them the Polish merchant navy's new square-rigger, *Dar Modrzy*, and the USSR's fisheries board barque, *Krusenstern*.

When the ships reach Lisbon on August 3, Hamilton tells me, there is a "crew interchange" in which masters establish which of their crews would like to complete the final leg to Vigo and back to Southampton aboard a ship of another nationality.

Would any attempt be made to keep Russians and Poles apart? I asked. "No way," says Hamilton. "The whole point of the race is to integrate youngsters of different nations."

● It looks as if the unemployed are getting on their feet, as the Employment Secretary, Norman Tebbit recommends, not necessarily to look for work. Social authorities in North Wales are pondering reason behind a sudden increase in school registrations of English-speaking children. They suspect English people on the move are choosing to sit out the recession in beautiful but jobless North Wales rather than in the industrial but equally jobless north-west and north-east of England.

NEW
APPOINTMENTS

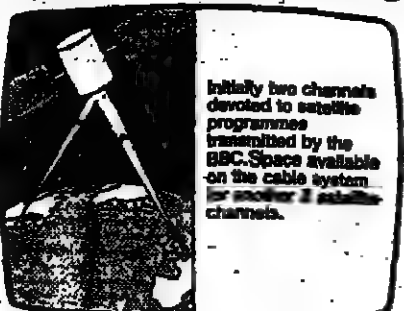
Sir Maurice Hodgson has been appointed a director of British Home Stores with effect from April 1.

Mr George Gooding, Mr Philip Gooding and Mr Donald Rushman have been appointed to the board of Hill Samuel & Co. with effect from April 1.

Richard Hornby has been appointed non-executive director of Cadbury Schweppes.

Mr A. J. Brook has been appointed a director of Boddingtons Breweries.

SATELLITE BROADCASTS



CONSUMER SERVICES



The face of broadcasting could change completely within the next two years if the Government accepts the recommendation of the Cabinet Information Technology Advisory Panel that Britain should have a cable television system of at least 30 channels.

The restrictions on television programming and broadcasting which have managed to contain the number of television channels to a mere three in nearly 30 years of broadcasting would go.

The report, to be published later today, was compiled by experts from industry, the city and the academic world. It suggests 20 entertainment channels and a further 10 for consumer services. In theory they could be operated 24 hours a day.

The first four would be devoted to the normal television broadcasting channels (BBC1 & 2, ITV and Channel 4). In addition there would be one other TV channel to carry programmes from one ITV region to another, two BBC direct satellite broadcasting channels and three other satellite channels yet to be assigned.

Other channels might be devoted to children's entertainment, arts, education, sport, subtitled programming for broadcasting foreign language material or to assist those viewers who are hard of hearing, films, local/national political coverage, a television version of yellow pages and special ethnic channels possibly for West Indian or Asian viewers. Separate channels could also be used to secure premises against fire or burglary by wiring the home to the local fire brigade or police station.

What is being recommended is not purely an entertainment system but a consumer telecommunications system which would provide services for the subscriber, like armchair shopping.

"We consider the long-term potential of cable systems for providing new sorts of services to be much more important, but have to accept that cable systems will go through an initial phase when their attraction will be based on entertainment considerations," says the report.

INTERNATIONAL
POLAND'S DEBT

By Roger Boyes

Warsaw — Poland's corridors of financial power should perhaps be fitted with revolving doors to cope with the Soviet conundrum and Western goings on. Two weeks ago the three-member team from the International Monetary Fund in this week came Soviet advisers to discuss industrial assistance.

Mr Zbigniew Karz, head of the International Department in the Polish Finance Ministry and one of the few remaining optimists on Poland's debt, says that the IMF team went away broadly satisfied on a number of points. "We could show them that our general aims, outlined to the IMF last year, remain fundamentally the same."

Indeed martial law has changed at least two economic features positively. "Economic reform is going ahead full steam and in fact reform of retail prices has moved much further ahead than anticipated last year."

Decoded, that means martial law enabled the Government to push up prices three and fourfold without the danger of widespread popular opposition. Secondly, "the extraction of raw materials is at a much higher level than last year."

Although Poland is still interested in IMF membership, it does not hold out any great hope of a miracle cure. Rather its strategy is to use Western banks — whose will to see a Polish economic recovery is undeniable — to put pressure on reschedule 1982 government debt.

In previous years, Poland used Western governments such as Bonn to pressure

An extensive cable television network will be recommended by a Government advisory panel report published today. Bill Johnstone explains the implications.

The cable network
that would link
up with your life

The time scale would depend on government approval and industry's response. Cable — about £3,000 worth — will need to be manufactured and a lot of expensive hardware built. But the first part of the network, the report to the cabinet suggests, could be operational within 18 months.

● The proposed new cable television system would be made up of a number of local networks. The idea of the systems is to encourage as much local input as possible. The entire range of programming on the system could be offered to the subscriber for between £5 and £10 a month.

If a system similar to the types running in north America were adopted a number of channels, probably half of the complete channel range, would be provided for a standard subscription. Additional channels, probably films, and some specialist programming would be paid for either by subscription or by paying separately for each programme viewed.

The mechanics of the system are fairly straightforward. A local network would be set up with cable running into every street in the district. Optical fibre cable would probably be used for this section since it has a capacity to carry large volumes of information. Each subscriber would then be connected by another cable to the main network.

The cabinet advisers estimate that each home in a town with a population of about 100,000 could be wired at a cost of between £200-£300.

The electronics in the home required to receive the signals from the cable would cost in the region of £80.

● The advisory panel sought the views of 21 organizations, among them British Telecom, BICC, the BBC, the Electricity Council, the National Economic Development Office, the Open University, Thomas Cook, Debenhams, Ladbroke's, Logica, Tesco and Thomson Regional Newspapers.

The report says: "Our investigations have revealed considerable interest by private firms (not only from established cable companies) in the possibility of participating in the cable systems, and we have no doubt that funds would be available from commercial sources to finance the installation of cable systems."

The cable systems would generate substantial business for the British electronic and cable manufacturing industries. The total investment could be in the region of £1,000m a year for the next ten years. The cable cost for wiring 50 per cent of the UK is between £2,000-£3,000m.

If the decision was taken to wire about 70 per cent of British homes to the new cable system the cable costs would rise to £3,000m.

The report is intended to encourage British business interests, and the system recommended may exclude the use of American technology which is built to meet different technical standards.

British Telecom is already advanced in fibre optic cabling technology — the use of thin glass fibres the width of a human hair to carry the amount of data contained in 2,000 simultaneous telephone calls. British cable companies like BICC and STC would also be involved.

Film makers and those companies which own the copyright to programming

material — the BBC and Thomson-EMI, for example — could make a lot of money.

Thorn-EMI owns the copyright to a substantial catalogue of films which are already available or will soon be available on video. These same films could be made available on cable. The BBC has a large archive of copyright material suitable for transmission on the cable systems. The extra money generated by such secondary income could lessen the pressure on the corporation to seek licence fee increases.

The cable system recommended would be interactive (two way) allowing the viewer to respond to what is appearing on the screen. This facility would allow retail stores to develop "teleshopping". Tesco, which contributed to the cable report, is already running a "teleshopping" experiment in Gateshead. It has set up terminals at remote sites from the Tesco stores on which customers can order groceries for delivery.

A similar approach is expected to be taken by travel agents who will allow viewers to book tickets and holidays direct from their armchair. Race meetings and possibly even "teleshopping" might be available on the system, provided by race course owners or bookmakers.

Companies which rely on television advertising may find another vehicle for selling their products. British viewers might be able to watch regularly sponsored programmes, at present not allowed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The report says: "Additional income could come from advertising and perhaps sponsorship."

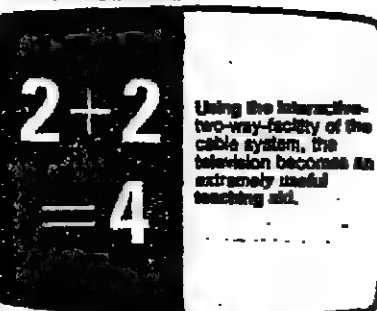
● But 70 per cent of Poland's imports are raw materials which then help Polish industry to export to hard currency countries. "Under these circumstances, the deficit with the Soviet Union is not so important. I would say it is better, if one has a choice, to get a million tonnes of oil for transferable roubles, than to spend say \$200m buying in Arab oil. That is more interesting for us and for Western countries too."

The message in the Polish Finance Ministry is that there is a short cut — via Moscow — out of Poland's debt problems, but the Soviet Union and other East European countries can and will ensure that industrial production gets back on course.

● The long term effect of this short term thinking is that more tractors will be produced. But that several smaller plants will grind to a standstill and the battery producer itself will lose any semblance of managerial autonomy.

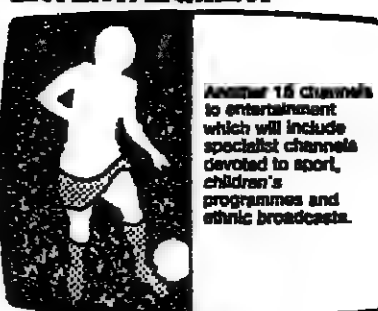
The mirage of a trim Polish industry able to adapt quickly and smoothly to changing market conditions is still a long, long way off. Mr Karz remains the only optimist in town.

EDUCATION



Using the interactive two-way facility of the cable system, the television becomes an extremely useful teaching aid.

ENTERTAINMENT



Another 16 channels to entertainment to include specialist channels devoted to sport, children's programmes and ethnic broadcasts.

● The most sophisticated system already in operation are those in the United States and in Canada. A number of American cities are now making plans to install systems with as many as 200 channels. Dallas, Atlanta, Houston, San Francisco and New York are among the leaders.

In Boston, New England for a payment of \$2 a month a subscriber to the new cable system (expected to be in operation by 1984) will have the choice of 52 channels and for additional payments a further selection from another 53 channels.

In Britain seven groups are involved in an experiment into cable television. They are: Rediffusion, Visionaire, Cable, Philips Cable Television, Radio Rentals, Cable Television, Greenwich Cable, and Cablevision, and British Telecom. The experiment which began last year was intended to last two years and was meant to gauge the public's reaction to cable.

Most of these systems carry the three broadcast television channels and about three or four more. These experimental networks have about 110,000 subscribers in all. Some 2.5 million homes already have their television pictures provided by cable purely because of local reception difficulties.

The advisory panel is confident that enough finance is available. "Even with less than 100 per cent take-up of the system there would appear to be sufficient income from subscribers to give a reasonable return on capital."

The panel would like to see the go-ahead given by the mid-1980s in the regulations established by the beginning of next year. "Such licensing could take place initially under existing legislation and administrative arrangements."

But a regulatory body will be necessary since the legislation which covers the type of broadcasting is contained in three different acts of parliament (The Wireless and Telegraphy Act 1949, the Post Office Act 1969 and the British Telecommunications Act of 1981) and the authority is divided between the Home Office and the Department of Industry.

Although it is difficult to give precise figures, the worst slump in the industrial production seems to be in the chemical industry, metallurgy (including steel), mechanical engineering and cars.

Ministry officials say that the February comparison is misleading. In the second half of last year there was a deteriorating trend in output that has simply been continuing and indeed showed a slight improvement in February compared to January 1982. The drop has not been caused by martial law, they say.

This however is disingenuous: Polish industry is in serious trouble, but by the dual evil of raw material shortages due to the absence of Western credits and stagnating labour productivity.

The problem with this assistance from the Soviet Union and other East European countries is that it is helping to distort the Polish economy and above all is undermining the cause of economic decentralisation, still technically viewed as the way out of the crisis. The short term solution to the crisis, Polish planners seem to believe, is to concentrate on priority areas — mainly shipbuilding, engineering, tractor construction, aviation, cars, electronics and steel.

But this means that a small factory which has previously supplied, for example batteries, for the Urals tractor factory and a dozen other customers, will now have to concentrate solely on Urals.

The long term effect of this short term thinking is that more tractors will be produced. But that several smaller plants will grind to a standstill and the battery producer itself will lose any semblance of managerial autonomy.

The mirage of a trim Polish industry able to adapt quickly and smoothly to changing market conditions is still a long, long way off. Mr Karz remains the only optimist in town.

Business Editor

French expansion
threatens EMS

It may have taken elections to focus the attention of the foreign exchange markets on the deficiencies of the franc. But the actual outcome of Sunday's second round of local government polls is unlikely to have more than a temporary impact on the currency's sagging fortunes.

The fact is that investors, having taken a good look at the French economy, are increasingly alarmed at what they see as a burgeoning budget deficit which this year may rise to five times its 1980 pre-Mitterrand level; a persistently high inflation rate, presently around 14 per cent, which shows little sign of easing; and a growing balance of trade deficit.

Strains within the European Monetary System were inevitable once France decided to go its own way and pursue an expansionary course in the face of the restrictive policies adopted by other members. Indeed, the French risk precipitating possible collapse of the system.

Through the EMS may not have succeeded in securing greater convergence of members' economies this

per cent is thought necessary by some analysts. But so long as the French are pursuing different policies from everybody else no one believes that the next devaluation, when it comes, will be the end of the story. Unless France changes its policies, or pulls out of the EMS as some have advocated, the EMS has a rocky road ahead.

Banks

Tax fears

Midland Bank rounded off the dividend season last week with only unchanged profits but this still left aggregate profits for the big four up by 15 per cent to a record £1,679m. This year profits are expected to be higher than last year's, for instance, forecasting an overall rise to more than £2,000m.

Much of the 1981 rise has come from international operations. Most of the increase at Barclays from £524m to £567m pre-tax came from Barclays International, National Westminster's international division made higher profits and Lloyds also showed big gains on overseas operations.

In contrast, falling interest rates and rising costs have put pressure on domestic clearing banks. This was only partly offset by the banks widening the spreads between their base and deposit rates.

Lloyds managed to buck the domestic trend by pushing up market share and Midland has also proved an odd-man-out: employee reductions helped towards the smallest rise in domestic staff costs of all the banks allowing the clearing bank to show an improvement from a poor result the previous year. However Midland's international side was held at unchanged profits because of higher bad debt provisions.

Although the profit outlook is good for 1982, the big uncertainty is just how the big banks plan to carry out his Budget threat of ensuring a reasonable tax take from the banks. The banks pay very little United Kingdom tax although they argue strongly that industry gets much of the benefit through the cheap leasing finance they provide.

● After what appears to have been a relatively low level of interest in last week's offering of Government index-linked stock, what happens next? The market had driven down the yield on the existing stocks to below 3½ per cent, on the assumption that the opening up of the market to all comers would produce a significant response. But now that response has not materialized, the market is looking for a new level. Private investors who have not yet tucked a little of the stock away in their portfolios, can probably afford to wait and see what happens over the next few weeks. How the authorities will play their hand, having said they will not supply the 1982 stock below £97.50, is a different matter. It looks very much as if its next offering will have to be rather more conventional.

The trade deficit, too, remains stubbornly intractable as a relatively rapid inflation and an overvalued exchange rate has hurt the competitiveness of French products. A devaluation within the EMS of around 8

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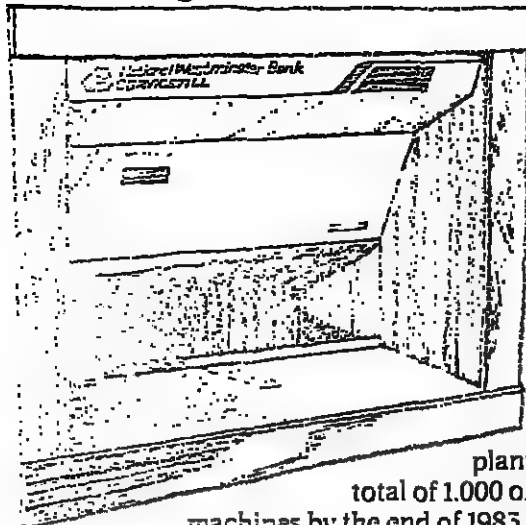
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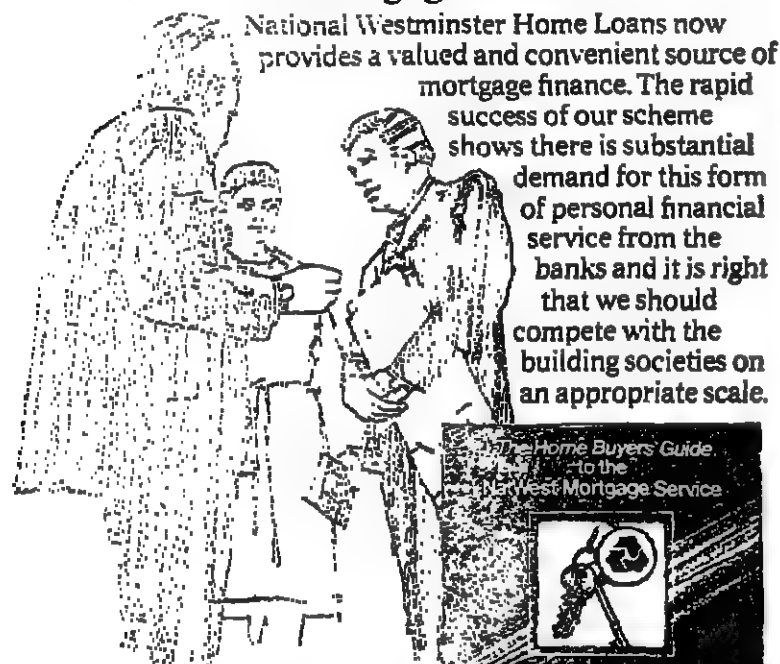
A world's eye view from NatWest

Extending our service to customers



In the increasingly competitive environment in 1982 we will continue to concentrate all our efforts into providing a first-class service to our customers, recognising their special and often individual needs. We now have well over 500 Servicetills operating on a 24-hour basis throughout the U.K., dispensing over £40m each month, already the largest network of its type in Europe. It is planned to have a total of 1,000 of these machines by the end of 1983. Towards the end of this year we plan to introduce a new quick-action customer-operated cash dispensing machine sited inside branches.

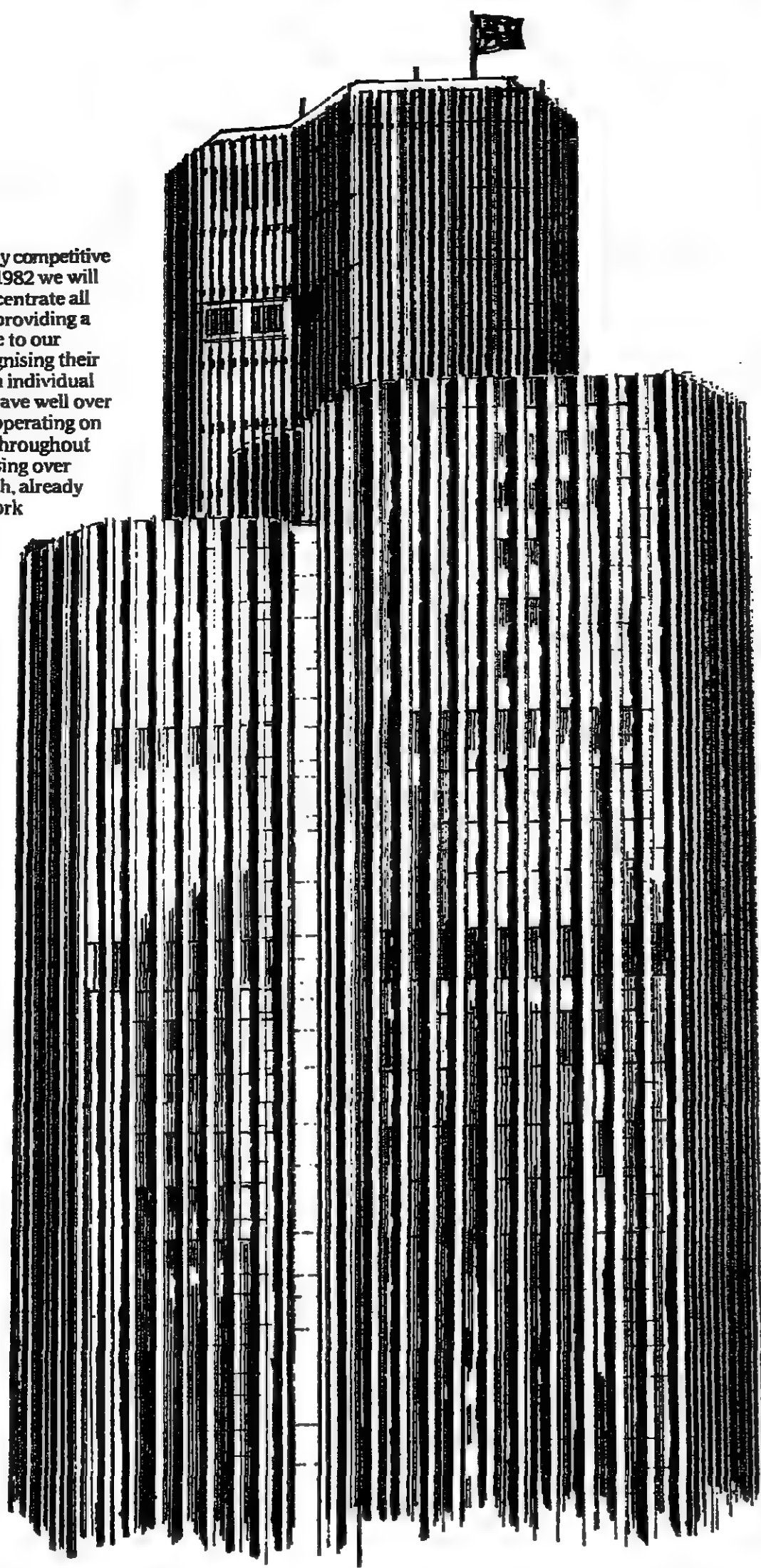
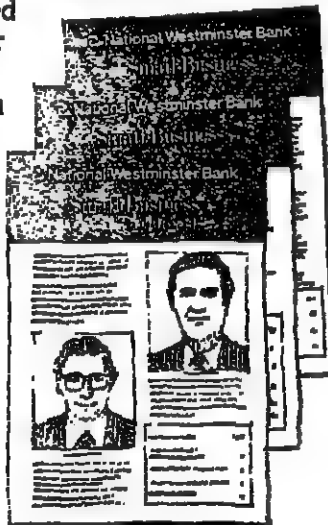
The NatWest Mortgage Service



National Westminster Home Loans now provides a valued and convenient source of mortgage finance. The rapid success of our scheme shows there is substantial demand for this form of personal financial service from the banks and it is right that we should compete with the building societies on an appropriate scale.

NatWest and Small Businesses

We have continued our policy of support for small businesses and have again held down interest rates on Business Development Loans whilst raising the upper limit for this facility to £250,000 to meet the needs of our customers. We completed during 1981, for instance, our 50,000th loan under our Business Development Loan Scheme and an increase of over 40% in lending to a total of £489m indicates the value and flexibility, as well as the competitiveness, of this kind of facility. We are also lending under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme and our interest terms are the cheapest of the four major clearing banks.

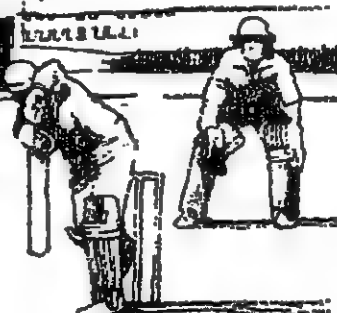


A Royal Opening for the National Westminster Tower

The cover of our Annual Report shows the Royal Standard flying over the National Westminster Tower on 11 June 1981. This was truly a memorable occasion when we were honoured by a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to declare the Tower formally open.

NatWest Bank Trophy

1981 saw the introduction of the competition for the National Westminster Bank Trophy. After a series of exciting matches, the Trophy was won by Derbyshire - literally on the last ball - when they defeated Northants in a closely contested Final at Lord's.



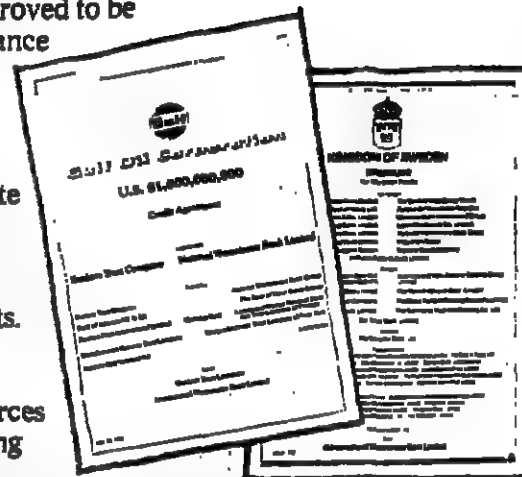
Our international presence

We see the Far East as offering major growth potential and in August an offshore executive office was opened in Singapore with a catchment area extending from China to Australasia and including Burma and the ASEAN countries. Our Canadian subsidiary applied for chartered status, now granted, and under its new name - National Westminster Bank of Canada, with an office opened in Montreal - we look to a material expansion of our business in that country to complement our substantial representation in the United States. In Germany, the activities of International Westminster Bank based in Frankfurt have been merged with our subsidiary Global Bank AG with effect from 4 January 1982 to form a new wholly-owned Group subsidiary called Deutsche Westminster Bank AG.



Corporate Finance

Our experience has proved to be of the utmost importance in meeting the sophisticated requirements of our corporate customers. We continue to operate in a very competitive environment, none more so than in the Eurocurrency markets. The need to make judicious use of the world's natural resources has meant a continuing involvement in major projects, particularly in the energy and related industries.



Youth opportunities with NatWest

Unemployment remains a pressing problem, especially amongst the young, and in recognising this we have increased the number of places made available each year under the Manpower Services Commission, Work Experience Programme. The Bank remains a major recruiter and is thus making a continuous contribution to employment levels among the lower age groups. We have also made grants available to bodies doing research into unemployment and have seconded able and senior managers to the job creation schemes.



Comments from the Chairman - Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton

The improved profit is attributable to increased volumes of business handled by a marginally smaller number of staff using increasingly sophisticated electronic equipment. It is a very satisfactory performance particularly having in mind the 3% reduction in the average base rate in the UK and shows that our profits are little influenced by fortuitous circumstances outside our control.

The world economy during 1981 was very subdued, with low growth and rising unemployment in most countries. Governments in general were unable to adopt expansionary policies, because inflation remained high and payments imbalances were still very large. 1981 will be remembered as a frustrating year for the British economy and it has become apparent that the high inflation of past years is deeply embedded leaving British industry more seriously uncompetitive than remedial measures over the past two years have been able to correct. Government measures which are designed to reduce the cost burden on industry and to enable it to be more competitive are most likely to stimulate economic activity without introducing inflationary pressure. We therefore think it right to support the Government's broad monetary strategy; for us as a bank it has been a matter of judicious

Financial Highlights 1981

Ordinary share capital	£237 million
Reserves	£1,969 million
Money lodged	£39,709 million
Money lent	£31,791 million
Group pre-tax profit	£494 million
Retained profit	£273 million

Copies of the Report and Accounts, which include the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary's Office, National Westminster Bank PLC, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

balance to ensure that at the same time we were not insensitive to the needs of our customers.

Our international banking policy remains appropriate to the difficult and highly competitive world scene, and we continue to seek good opportunities for growth of our existing business and expansion of our representation. We remain confident that our overseas loan portfolio is carefully balanced and distributed, and we shall continue to observe those principles of policy which we believe will contain our risks to acceptable levels. In the United States there is some prospect of recovery in the latter part of 1982 which should help to stimulate the economies of the industrialised countries in Europe.

I should say something by way of explanation of a policy of allowing loans for personal consumption to rise at a time when the demand from manufacturing and exporting customers remains below the level of available bank credit. Most personal loans are structured to be of short duration and repayment terms in our experience are scrupulously observed. We feel satisfied, therefore, in extending to that category of customer which contributes so much to our deposit base, a service which will not conflict with a commitment to provide adequate funds for manufacturing and exporting customers when the economy expands and the need arises.

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Wates Construction Limited have had considerable experience overcoming such problems over the many years we've been building in the City (and other cities in Britain).

At Audrey House, a new office block at Ely Place in Holborn, we had to hoist some of the building materials by crane over the top of an ornate Edwardian facade.

(And without damaging the ancient church next door.)

Others we had to take through a specially cut hole in the facade.

At Milk Street, where we developed an office block, the site was so cramped, the only answer to delivery problems was to build a heavily reinforced concrete foundation to accommodate a turntable within the building itself.

Probably our most difficult job in terms of access has been the Bank of New South Wales building alongside Cannon Street Station.

The only access to the rear of the building was via a 9' wide road through which all materials had to be transported.

Really big plant had to be handled at weekends by closing Walbrook altogether. All other materials had to be manhandled.

In addition, we had to go to considerable lengths to protect the vast numbers of commuters who use Cannon Street Station every day. For example, we had to build overhead protective walkways alongside the site.

One last little problem: at ground floor level, a public house had to remain in continuous trading throughout the contract, despite having to pass ducting through part of the premises.

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Commercial Property by Baron Phillips

End of the city megacentre

The age of the large city centre shopping centre is almost over. Recession and changing shopping habits are reflected in the substantial downturn of retailing schemes under construction over the past 12 months.

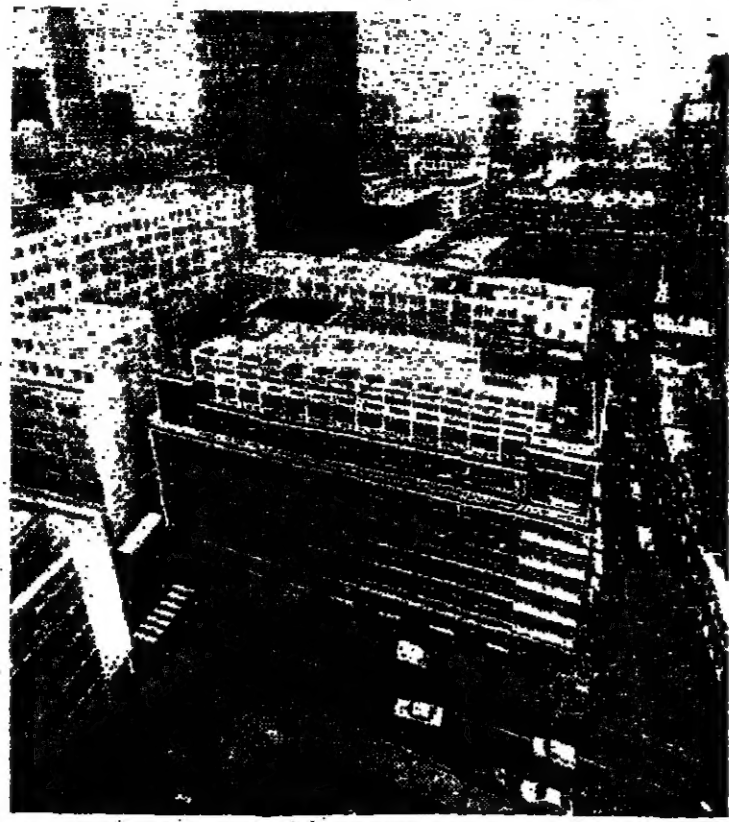
According to agents Hillier Parker the amount of space actually under construction has dropped by a third since March 1981. Although there are plenty of developments on the drawing board they will not be massive urban centres or regional centres like Brent Cross.

Willier Parker show that over the past 12 months space being built has fallen to about 6,500,000 sq ft compared with more than nine million sq ft in March 1981. But as Dr Russell Schiller research chief of HP points out there was a lot of activity over the last year with a number of major regional centres such as the huge scheme at Peterborough.

Most of the openings which have taken place this year reflected the fruition of plans which were laid during the boom years in the late 1970s, says Dr Schiller, although there is likely to be a slow down over the next year or so.

Surprisingly, while there may be fewer openings in the coming year, there is a huge amount of development in the pipeline. According to the research by Dr Schiller and his team there is in the region of 14 million sq ft of shopping space proposed, that is where detailed planning permission has not yet been granted. This compares with about 12 million sq ft a year ago. At the same time the amount of space which has received permission has increased by more than 20 per cent from 10,200,000 sq ft to 12,540,000 sq ft.

One interesting aspect to come out of the latest HP research is that for some years the average size of shopping developments has been declining. Since the late 1970s, when the average size of a development was 232,000 sq ft, there has been a steady fall



Following accountants Ernst & Whinney's acquisition of a new headquarters building, they are now seeking to dispose of their modern office block at 57 Chiswell Street, close to Finsbury Square on the edge of the City, through agents Gooch & Wagstaff. Covering more than 98,000 sq ft, the building, with vacant possession of almost 78,000 sq ft, will be available from late summer. Ernst & Whinney are moving to Beckett House, Lambeth Palace Road.

until this year. There is now indication that this trend is being reversed. Average sizes for schemes planned for this year are about 151,000 sq ft compared with the present construction size of 138,000 sq ft.

But even so the agents conclude that the day of the large city centre shopping development is probably over. The latest giant was the recently opened Peterborough scheme at about 500,000 sq ft and certainly there are plans to emulate the successful formula of the one million sq ft Brent Cross centre in north London.

either proposed developments of those under construction is heavily geared to London and the South-east. The two areas previously account for more than 50 per cent of all shopping schemes being built and a further 54 per cent of planned schemes. The only other area to show future growth is Scotland where a fifth of planned developments are to be located.

And it is in the Greater London area that a number of major buildings are planned or under construction. At Bexley Heath there is a scheme for more than 400,000 sq ft of shopping, in Croydon Debenhams plan a major development and at Ealing a 200,000 sq ft centre is under way.

What is beginning to emerge, says Dr Schiller, is that while the large developments are behind us, there is plenty of scope for building over the next decade or so. He expects we will witness a surge in the number of district centres and the second and third phase developments added on to existing major urban shopping schemes.

With developers looking outside the traditional urban conurbations the scope of building will be much wider, says Dr Schiller. He reckons the order of development will be in the 150,000 sq ft to 200,000 sq ft range.

Norwich Union again heads the list of developers with most floorspace under construction or planned, followed by Bredford, Taylor Woodrow, Town & City and Crutcher. Only three of the leading developers active between 1966 and 1981 are still in the top 10 today - Town & City, Laing, and Norwich Union.

Dr Schiller points out another change in the structure of shopping centre development. Major developers are taking a smaller share of the total cake. While the leading companies accounted for 28 per cent of the space completed this year the top three are only responsible for 16 per cent of the floorspace under construction or planned.

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